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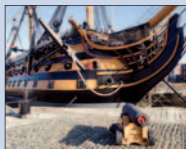
VIDEO GAMES

'Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor'
one game to rule them all

Page 26



QUICK TRIPS: EUROPE



Historic dockyard
keeps maritime
history alive

Page 28

QUICK TRIPS: PACIFIC



Japanese bunker
a grim reminder
of bloody battle

Page 34

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Dak Prescott
generating
Heisman buzz

Back page



WAR ON TERRORISM

PROPAGANDA VALUE IN KOBANI?

US-led coalition seeks moral,
military victory in Syrian town

Page 4



People watch fighting in Kobani, Syria,
between Syriani Kurds and Islamic State
militants from the outskirts of Suric,
near the Turkey-Syria border.

LEFT: PITARAKIS/AP

US health officials on the defensive over Ebola outbreak

By JIM KUHNEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal health officials said Thursday they still don't know how two nurses caught Ebola from a patient, as criticism increased from lawmakers who questioned whether the nation is prepared to stop the deadly virus from spreading in the U.S.

The revelation that one of the hospital nurses was cleared to fly on a commercial airline the day before she was diagnosed raised new alarms about the American response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

The death toll is expected to climb above 4,500 in Africa, all but a few within Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, the World Health Organization said.

INSIDE

Lawmakers cite mistakes
in response, say American
public is losing confidence

Page 10

The first nurse stricken in the U.S., Nina Pham, who contracted Ebola after treating a Liberian

man in Dallas, was being flown to the National Institutes of Health outside Washington, while a second nurse has already been transferred to a biohazard infectious disease center at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta.

The nurses, Pham and Amber Joy Vinson, had been involved in providing care to Thomas Duncan, who died of Ebola last week.

SEE OUTBREAK ON PAGE 10

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Bottom line, ISIS has the strategic initiative. The U.S. is simply reacting to wherever ISIS is threatening the most."

— Analyst and retired U.S. naval aviator Christopher Harmer, on the uneven use of U.S.-led air power during the past week in the fight against Islamic State militants

See story on Page 6

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2. New medal honors nuclear deterrence service
3. Pentagon: Policies in place to protect troops, even as Ebola spreads in US
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5. US forces in Europe to rehearse increased force protection

COMING SOON

Science & Medicine

DNA linked to how much coffee you drink



TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup	20
Business	48
Classified	50-52
Comics	42, 46-47
Crossword	42, 46-47
Faces	43
Faith	19
Opinion	44-45
Sports	53-64
Weather	48
Weekend	21-42

MILITARY

Base bids farewell to 'Elephant Cage'

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Misawa Air Base began the long-planned dismantling of the Cold War-era antenna array known as the "Elephant Cage" on Wednesday.

The Elephant Cage earned its nickname in part due to the secrecy surrounding it.

The cage, which was built between 1963 and 1965, stood 137 feet tall and contained three concentric circles. It was impossible to ignore, but its purpose remained classified for years.

On a website maintained by the Federation of American Scientists, a former airman wrote that his Misawa-based supervisor, Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Rabig, perpetuated the Elephant Cage moniker.

"He maintained that was their purpose and justified the explanation by pointing out: 'They work pretty well, don't they? You



JORDYN RUCKER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Misawa Air Base's AN/FLR-9 antenna, known as the "Elephant Cage," stands just before the start of demolition on Wednesday.

don't see any elephants running around loose do you? I guess the name stuck."

Others speculated that the cage, known properly as the FLR-9, was a "missile catcher" deployed to defend against a Soviet Union attack.

Its actual purpose was a bit less dramatic.

The Elephant Cage, which was modeled on a previous, German design, was built to detect high-

frequency radio waves transmitted by the Soviet Union and its satellite states. It could directionally locate signals from up to 4,000 nautical miles away, according to Misawa officials.

With the advancement of space-based and other technologies, the Elephant Cage has outlived its usefulness, Air Force officials said.

Misawa's version was one of several cages built around the

world at various installations, including Clark Air Base in the Philippines and RAF Chicksands in England.

The last Elephant Cage still operating is at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska.

The Elephant Cage at Misawa was decommissioned in 2012 and was supposed to be dismantled last year, but contracting and funding issues delayed it until now, Misawa officials said.

When demolition is completed, the Air Force will have a pleasant dilemma on its hands: what to do with a large chunk of waterfront property.

"There are talks of possibly expanding Leftwich Park, which is near the site," 35th Fighter Wing spokesman Staff Sgt. Tong Duong said.

Grass will be replanted at the site in the near term, Duong added.

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New suit for soldiers recharges batteries sans wires

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. armed forces have been grappling for years with how to reduce the weight ground troops carry with them on patrol. The problem: the "Christmas tree effect," in which radios and a variety of other electronics are increasingly hung on their body armor like ornaments, weighing them down in the field.

Defense contractor BAE Systems has developed a new suit known as Broadword to combat that and demonstrated it this week at the annual conference of the Association of the United States Army in Washington. The suit includes woven fabric that conducts electricity and transmits data without cords, allowing combat troops to cut down on batteries and to recharge their equipment while plugged into the suit or inductive "charging pouches," said Chris Colston, a business development director for BAE.

"Because of the weave, there is (sic) infinite ways that the power and data can make it through," Colston said.

The Army and the Marine Corps both are evaluating the system, Colston said. It is powered by a flexible battery along its wearer's spine that recharges each time he or she sits on a "charging pad" mounted to a vehicle suit.

The company does not say what material



C.J. LIN/Stars and Stripes

The Broadword suit by BAE Systems is displayed Oct. 15 at the Association of the United States Army conference in Washington.

the conductive yards use. But it says it has proven that it will not electrocute soldiers, and included a power management system that allows them to turn on or off the recharging to the devices of their choice. It works with

existing radios, an effort to get the suit fielded sooner rather than later.

"We recognize that if we're going to introduce something like this, it needs to work with existing systems," Colston said.



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MILITARY



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Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., commander of U.S. Army Europe, shown in August, is set to retire Nov. 5.

USAREUR leader set to retire

Campbell cites successes as he prepares to leave post, military

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr.'s tenure as commander of U.S. Army Europe — which ends next month when he retires — has arguably carried more risk and uncertainty than that of any of his recent predecessors.

When he came into the job two years ago, a massive downsizing was underway and the threat to European security from Russia seemed to have receded into history.

Now, as he is set to step down Nov. 5, new threats lay at the continent's southern and eastern frontier, with Islamic militants fighting along the border of NATO ally Turkey and Russia backing a separatist war in Ukraine.

Today, USAREUR has about 29,000 soldiers, roughly a tenth of what it had at the Cold War's peak. Yet, despite its diminished size and the growing number of contingencies it has to respond to, Campbell remains optimistic that the U.S. and its allies in the region will persevere.

"I don't wake up every morning thinking, 'Am I deterring Russia?'" Campbell told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday, moments after stepping off a flight from Latvia, a country that borders Russia. U.S. troops have deployed to Latvia and two other Baltic states in response to Moscow's aggression against Ukraine. "I wake up every morning saying, 'Are we doing the right thing from a training and readiness'" standpoint?

If the Russians were to step into NATO territory, "I think you would see a pretty swift reaction, not only from the U.S. but from NATO allies," he said.

USAREUR's job these days isn't about deterrence, Campbell said. With two ground combat brigades and an aviation brigade, the command has fewer combat troops than the roughly 17,000 Russia has massed on Ukraine's border.

What USAREUR does is provide reassurance to regional allies.

Within weeks of Russia's annexation of Crimea in March, USAREUR deployed soldiers from the 17th Airborne Brigade to Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to

train with the armies of NATO allies closest to the conflict.

That was reassuring to Maj. Gen. Almanas Leika, Lithuania's land forces commander, who said then that the U.S. deployment "shows that we can rely on our ally."

"This is a very clear signal, and we read the signal very clearly," he said.

That show of combined resolve does more to deter potential aggressors than anything the U.S. could do unilaterally, said Campbell, who will hand over USAREUR command to Lt. Gen. Frederick "Ben" Hodges, who now heads NATO's Allied Land Command in Turkey.

Campbell points to a ceremony he attended Tuesday in Latvia, where U.S. infantry companies swapped out to continue the training mission. Such a small force would typically garner little to no media attention, but 24 news outlets attended the event, Campbell said.

"Half of them were Russian-speaking. If, in a small way, it does deter something, that's fine," he said, but he's more concerned about training and readiness.

To that end, the U.S. has been engaged in a flurry of exercises across Europe, including in Ukraine.

Operation Atlantic Resolve, the mission to reassure the Baltics and Poland of NATO's commitment, continues with the U.S. at the forefront. Campbell said he would like to see more participation from other NATO countries.

"But I'm not going to point or single out anyone," he said. "I think everybody's doing what they can right now. And they understand the importance of the mission and where it's going and what we can do."

He won't criticize Turkey either for its tepid response to Islamic State militants pressing against it — and thus NATO's — southern border.

The U.S., along with Germany and the Netherlands, rushed Patriot air defense missile systems to Turkey's border with Syria in early 2013, just after Campbell took command of USAREUR. Turkey asked for the deployments, which continue today, when cross-border shelling from Syria's civil war made it seem that conflict might

spill into the NATO ally's territory.

Now, the U.S. is rallying a coalition to counter the Islamic State, which is broadly seen as a greater threat to regional and global security.

"I believe in the end run they'll do what's right for Turkey and they'll do what's right for NATO," Campbell said. "And I'm optimistic that will include supporting the fight against ISIL," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group.

Two months before Campbell took command of USAREUR, Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, handed him a letter. It contained three main points, Campbell said: Improve USAREUR's relationship with U.S. European Command, enhance interoperability with NATO and take care of families and soldiers.

The command's efforts during the last year have highlighted its success in meeting the first two objectives, Campbell said, but the job of taking care of soldiers and families is never finished.

He's gone hard after sexual assault, hosting two conferences with senior leaders to address the problem. The number of sexual assault reports in the command increased under his tenure, which he believes indicates that soldiers have greater confidence in their leadership to hold perpetrators accountable and care for victims.

Even one suicide or sexual assault is too many, he said, "but I think we've put more discipline and rigor in the system and helping ourselves see ourselves."

As for what's next for Campbell, who retires from the Army, he's settling in North Carolina, where he and his wife have built a home. He grew up in the military, was in ROTC in college and got his commission right afterward. He's spent 36 years in the Army, and that's the only life he said he's ever really known.

He said he'll take a few months off before looking for another job. He wants to stay away from Washington.

"After doing this for so long, I'd like to kind of try something else."

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Hagel sees busy future for Army, facing wider range of threats

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — As the post-9/11 counterinsurgency wars come to an end, the Army must reorient itself to conduct full-spectrum operations and new missions, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.

"In the near term, the Army is unlikely to repeat another Iraq- or Afghanistan-type campaign — that is, regime change and occupation followed by nation-building under fire," he told audience members at an Association of the United States Army conference in Washington.

He said the service must be prepared to deal with a wider range of threats, including a revisionist Russia, disruptive technologies like cyberwarfare, humanitarian crises like the Ebola outbreak in Africa and "hybrid warfare" where America's adversaries combine the insurgent tactics with the technologies of advanced militaries.

To prepare for the tasks of the future, the Pentagon chief said that soldiers need to experience full-spectrum training at brigade-level centers where they are immersed in realistic threat scenarios facing guerrilla, terrorist, criminal and sophisticated conventional forces.

He singled out the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., as model facilities for such activities.

Hagel's remarks came at a time when some believe that the Army's relative importance is on the wane as the war in Afghanistan winds down and the Pentagon's attention is shifting to the Pacific, where the Navy and Air Force would likely play the leading role in potential conflicts.

"This does not mean that demand for the Army is diminishing, or that the Army's place in our national security strategy is eroding. It is not," Hagel said.

He told the audience that the service that did "most of the fighting and dying" in Iraq and Afghanistan will remain very busy with overseas deployments and rotations, large-scale training missions and other efforts. The Army won't become a "garrison" force at home, according to Hagel.

He said the Army might adopt new missions and tactics that could prove useful for the Pacific pivot, including flying helicopters off ships, and leveraging its arsenal of long-range precision-guided missiles, rockets, artillery and air defense systems to keep the sea lanes open and provide coastal defense.

But Hagel warned that the Army's busy future could be undermined by Congress.

"We've seen how quickly a battle-hardened Army can wither into a force that is ill-equipped and ill-prepared to carry out its mission," he said. "We've seen the consequences."

He called Congress' failure to reverse the looming defense budget cuts known as sequestration as "an irresponsible deferral of responsibility," and warned that such cuts could result in an Army that isn't ready to carry out the missions assigned to it in the future.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

U.S. pounds militants in Kobani

Officials: Effort aimed at massed Islamic State fighters

By KAREN DEYOUNG
AND LIZ SEY
The Washington Post

For the moment, at least, the once-obscure Syrian town of Kobani, along the Turkish border, has become the epicenter of the overall U.S. and coalition fight to degrade and demoralize Islamic State militants.

Airstrikes in and around the town have sharply increased, to nearly 40 in a 48-hour period this week. At the same time, strikes elsewhere in Syria have virtually stopped. Air attacks in neighboring Iraq have slowed significantly in recent days, in part because of bad weather and poor visibility.

U.S. officials said their objective is less Kobani itself — which they said still may fall to the militants — than the opportunity it presents to hit massed Islamic State forces.

“One of the reasons why you’re seeing more strikes there is because there’s more ISIL there,” Rear Adm. John F. Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said Wednesday, using an acronym for the Islamic State. He said that “hundreds” of militants have been killed.

But Kobani also has come to represent a potential propaganda victory the Obama administration is eager to deny the militants.

“Part of the dynamic we want to show is that these guys aren’t ten feet tall,” said a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the motivation for target selection beyond purely military objectives. “A lot of their edge has been psychological.”

“They’re like a shark; if they’re not swimming, they’re sinking,” the official said. “That’s how they recruit foreign fighters and establish themselves as the vanguard of global jihad.”

‘Acute media attention’

The militant siege of Kobani, the official acknowledged, has become the subject of “acute media attention,” with news cameras just across the border in Turkey transmitting live images of combat. The United Nations last week warned of a “genocide” if the militants are allowed to take over. French President François Hollande — whose government is participating in coalition activities in Iraq but not in Syria — this week called on all nations to do their utmost to help save the town.

This week, the dominant image has been of U.S. airstrikes.

“I don’t want to suggest that our military actions are driven by the simple fact that this is a town that can be seen by cameras,” the senior official said. “I do think it’s fair to say that we have an interest in blunting their momentum to show

that they are not this inevitably advancing force that they have portrayed themselves as being.”

A senior Defense Department official acknowledged the town’s propaganda value to the Islamic State but insisted that “we are not dropping bombs on them to make them look weak. We are dropping bombs on them to make them weak.”

Differing assessments

There were sharply differing assessments Wednesday of the effect of the airstrikes. “Right now, we believe it’s still being defended and still in their hands,” Kirby said of the Syrian Kurdish fighters in the town. But Kobani, he said, “could very well still fall.”

Other U.S. military officials, with access to real-time intelligence assessments, said the militants have continued to pour in resources and remain in control of a significant portion of the town.

Kurdish fighters and activists on the ground said that two days of relentless attacks have turned the tide in their favor.

Isaans Naasan, the deputy foreign minister of Kobani’s self-proclaimed government, said Kurdish defenders had pushed the jihadists back more than 4 miles from the western edge of the town by nightfall Wednesday and were advancing into the eastern and southern neighborhoods of the city.

He claimed that Kurdish fighters with the People’s Protection Units, or YPG, now control 80 percent of Kobani after losing more than half of it in heavy fighting in past days.

“The YPG now have the initiative,” Naasan said, speaking from inside the town. “They are on the counteroffensive against the Islamic State.”

If the Kurdish fighters manage to retake Kobani, it would be the first time that U.S. strikes have helped eject the Islamic State from territory in Syria since the air war was expanded to include the northern and eastern parts of the country a little over three weeks ago.

The border town, nestled amid rolling farmland in a remote part of north-central Syria, has limited strategic significance. Islamic State fighters had advanced toward it unimpeded, capturing scores of tiny villages across a large swath of territory along the way and sending more than 100,000 people fleeing in panic into Turkey.

Although daily U.S. airstrikes had begun in Kobani more than a week earlier, it was only on Tuesday, as militant reinforcements were said to have arrived, that coalition sorties sharply escalated. On Thursday, the U.S. Central Command said its fighters and bombers had conducted 14 airstrikes on Islamic State buildings and fighting positions. On Wednesday, it had carried out 18 strikes

in the previous 24 hours, on top of 21 reported the previous day.

Ground-shaking explosions reverberated repeatedly across the countryside spanning the Syria-Turkey border Wednesday, sending plumes of smoke billowing from the town. Kurdish activists said that the bodies of “tens” of Islamic State fighters lay strewn around the streets of bombed neighborhoods that they said were subsequently retaken by defenders.

The Islamic State, which typically boasts about its conquests in videos and statements on social media, has fallen silent on the Kobani battle amid unconfirmed reports that some of its more senior commanders have been killed. Among those mentioned are leaders known as Abu Khattab al-Kurdi, from the town of Halabja in Iraq’s Kurdish region, and Abu Mohammed al-Amriki, a Chechen who was said to have lived in the United States for a decade before leaving to fight in Syria.

Defending ‘terrorists’

The intensified effort has put the United States in the curious position of bombing to defend a Kurdish faction aligned in opposition to its usual regional allies. The Kurdish YPG militia defending the town is affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK, which in the past has waged a bloody insurgency against Turkey and is designated as a terrorist organization by both Turkey and the United States.

The group is also at odds with Washington’s long-standing Kurdish allies in Iraq and its Syrian affiliates, which accuse the Syrian YPG militia faction of working on behalf of Syrian President Bashar Assad, a charge the group denies.

Kurdish officials say the YPG has been unofficially cooperating with the United States, delivering the coordinates of Islamic State positions to coalition officials in Iraqi Kurdistan’s capital, Erbil. Kirby, at the Pentagon, declined to comment on the reports.

Turkey has refused to allow supplies across the border to the YPG, a situation the Obama administration would like to reverse. U.S. diplomats and a Pentagon planning team coordinating Turkey’s contribution to the anti-Islamic State coalition have asked the YPG to provide their antipathy toward the Kurds and to allow the fighters free access to regroup and resupply themselves on the other side of the border.

Retired Gen. John Allen, the administration’s coordinator for the coalition who last week visited Turkey, said Wednesday that the goal of the airstrikes was to provide “white space” for the defenders and to “give some time to the fighters to organize on the ground.”



TREVOR WELSH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson sails in the Pacific Ocean on Sept. 23.

USS Carl Vinson to take over Syria, Iraq airstrikes

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group reported for duty Wednesday in the Middle East, where it will take over from the George H.W. Bush, which has been heavily engaged in the bombing campaign against Islamic State militants.

Warplanes from the Bush have been conducting airstrikes on the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria since Aug. 8 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

U.S. 5th Fleet officials said the Vinson is in the midst of a turnover with the Bush, which is nearing the end of its scheduled nine-month deployment to the 6th Fleet and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility. The ship left Norfolk, Va., on Feb. 15.

Earlier this month, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said that for now one aircraft carrier is adequate to meet operational demands in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S.-led coalition began bombing Islamic State militants in August after they occupied a large area of western Iraq and threatened the capital, Baghdad. Last month, the aerial campaign was extended to Syria. Currently, much of the effort is focused on the Kurdish town of Kobani on Syria’s border with Turkey, where Islamic State fighters equipped with tanks, artillery and trucks with mounted machine guns and autocannons have made substantial gains in recent weeks against the lightly armed Kurdish defenders.

There have been five airstrikes in Iraq and 18 airstrikes in Syria since Tuesday, U.S. Central Command officials reported Wednesday.

The San Diego-based Vinson is accompanied in the region by the guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill and the guided-missile destroyers USS Gridley, USS Sterett and USS Dewey. The entire strike group left home Aug. 22, with about 6,200 sailors on a scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and the Middle East.

The Makin Island amphibious ready group, which relieved the Bataan group in September, is also in the region supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. The group brings with it a variety of aircraft, including MV-22 Ospreys, AV-8B Harriers, CH-53E Super Stallions, AH-1Z Super Cobras and UH-1Y Hueys.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

US wants NATO allies' aid retraining Iraqis

By GOPAL RATNAM
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — The difficult and dangerous task of retraining Iraqi security forces to take on the Islamic State militants who've made impressive gains in the north and west of Iraq will require large numbers of trainers from the United States and NATO nations, according to a person familiar with joint assessments by the American-led coalition and the Iraqi government.

The expanded retraining effort being proposed by the United States may require as many as 1,000 foreign trainers from the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Australia, led by American advisers, to restore the beleaguered Iraqi security forces to a battle-ready state, said the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because no decisions have been made. The United States already has about 1,500 advisers in the country, and Western European allies have signaled their ability to send hundreds of trainers each, the person said.

While Britain and France are participating in airstrikes against the Islamic State and Germany is supporting Kurdish rebels in Iraq, getting those countries' parliaments to approve sending ground troops into a war zone to train Iraqi forces is likely to be enormously complicated politically given the war fatigue in Washington and other Western capitals.

Alongside the significantly expanded training mission, the U.S.-led coalition also wants to create an Iraqi national guard force of about two to three brigades, or as many as 15,000 troops, drawn from Sunni tribes in Anbar province. Those militiamen reporting to provincial governors would be charged with keeping the Islamic State out of the Sunni heartland. Many of those tribesmen and their leaders participated in a 2006 uprising called the Anbar Awakening that helped the United States defeat al-Qaida in Iraq, only to turn on the government of then-Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who refused to pay the fighters or fold them into the standing Iraqi military after the violence subsided.

The U.S. has proposed that the guard units be recruited, trained and paid by Iraq's Defense Ministry, as opposed to how it was done during the 2006 uprising, when the U.S. recruited the tribes and had Baghdad pay for them, the person familiar with the discussion said. Some of Iraq's Sunni Arab neighbors may help defray the cost of retraining Iraqi troops and the cost of the national guard units, the person said.

The U.S. still is in the early stages of assembling an effective coalition to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State, as President Barack Obama has described the mission. But getting countries to sign up while questions about the future of Syrian President Bashar Assad remain unanswered is at the heart of the Obama administration's challenge. Many Sunni Arab nations and NATO countries want to see

Assad go, while Obama has declined to get the United States involved in what he sees as an intractable civil war in Syria.

The one issue on which many countries agree is the need for Iraq's military — gutted as a result of al-Maliki removing talented Sunni officers and replacing them with Shiite loyalists — to be reconstituted to fight the Islamic State. Western officials, particularly those in the U.S., were stunned by how rapidly the Iraqi army collapsed in the early stages of the

Islamic State's assault, fleeing by the tens of thousands and leaving behind large quantities of American-provided weaponry.

The key question of how the region's Sunni Arab countries will contribute to retraining Iraqi security forces is part of the intense discussions between the White House and the government of new Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi. Both sides are trying to strike a balance between inviting such involvement and angering Iran, the Shiite power whose support is criti-

cal to al-Abadi's tenure.

The U.S. is hoping that many NATO members will readily consent to sending their troops to train Iraqi forces, particularly after troubling revelations that citizens from Western Europe and Australia are both victims of the Islamic State and participants alongside the militant group. The British Parliament in September overwhelmingly approved airstrikes against the Islamic State in Iraq after the militant group posted a YouTube video of the

beheading of captured British aid worker David Haines. France and Germany also have signed up to support rebels fighting the Islamic State in Iraq.

Arab countries have been reluctant to wholeheartedly support the U.S. strategy because it's still unclear how the Obama administration hopes to tackle the Islamic State without addressing the group's presence in Syria, which would require the U.S. to answer the question of what happens to Assad.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraqis desperate for U.S. air cover

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
McClatchy Foreign Staff

IRBIL, Iraq — With the U.S. seemingly focused on helping Kurdish militias fight off an Islamic State advance at Kobani on the Turkey-Syria border, Islamist militants this week have seized one key military base in Iraq's Anbar province and have laid siege to another, with no major increase in U.S. air support for the beleaguered Iraqi security forces.

Reports from Kobani indicate that intense U.S. airstrikes there have driven back Islamic State fighters, while in Anbar the militants' advance has been unrelenting. On Tuesday, the Islamic State captured heavy artillery and an unknown number of weapons including machine guns and ammunition when it overran an Iraqi base outside the city of Hit. Now the group has surrounded the Ain Asad air base, northwest of Hit, the country's third-largest military facility.

Yet the number of U.S. strikes in Anbar over the past week has plummeted compared with the previous week and have been far fewer than those launched near Kobani, a Kurdish city whose strategic importance is in dispute but where the fighting can be viewed easily from inside Turkey.

The U.S. Central Command has announced just five airstrikes in Anbar in the past week, compared with 16 last week, while the number of air assaults near Kobani in the same period totals 70 — 39 of them in the last two days. Iraqi troops at the Ain Asad base in Anbar say they are desperate for U.S. air support.

"It's not possible to get in any supplies by land," explained a member of Iraq's security forces inside the base reached by phone. Speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to a reporter, he said the base is surrounded, and while the Iraqi military has delivered some supplies by air, the forces holed up there are not hopeful.

"Forces in the base are almost collapsed psychologically and scared," he said. "I cannot say for how long, but can hold the base."

"What his men need now, he said, is air cover."

"If air cover is provided," he said, "we will attack the militants in the nearby villages and stop their advance."

Analysts suggest the uneven use of U.S.-led air power over the past week is due in part to limited capacity and in part to a failure in the overall strategy in the fight against Islamic State, which is also known as ISIL and ISIS.

"U.S. assets are partially overstretched," said Christopher Harmer, a retired U.S. naval aviator and currently a senior naval analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, a Washing-

‘The core problem is that the U.S. does not have the strategic initiative. We are reacting to where ISIS is advancing, rather than proactively implementing a strategy to defeat them.’

Christopher Harmer
senior naval analyst at the
Institute for the Study of War

ton research center. "The core problem is that the U.S. does not have the strategic initiative. We are reacting to where ISIS is advancing, rather than proactively implementing a strategy to defeat them."

While the Islamic State has maintained a presence on the outskirts of the Iraqi capital for months, using the pockets of territory to launch isolated attacks inside Baghdad like Tuesday's car bombing that killed Shiite parliamentarian Ahmed al Khafaji, the fall of Anbar province out of government hands would allow the group to pose a direct, sustained threat to Baghdad.

U.S. officials already have expressed concern regarding the group's presence in western Baghdad, just outside the city's strategically important international airport.

During an interview Sunday on the ABC News program "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted the group had come within "striking distance" of the airport, prompting the U.S. last week to send Apache helicopters into the fight, a risky move given that the low altitudes the crafts fly at leave them vulnerable to ground fire.

Dempsey said Islamic State forces had moved within 12 miles of the airport when the Apaches were sent to engage them as they battled Iraqi ground forces. "This is a case where you're not going to wait until they're climbing over the wall," Dempsey said of the battle. "Had they overrun the Iraqi unit it was a straight shot to the airport. So, we're not going to allow that to happen. We need that airport."

"Bottom line," said Harmer, the former naval aviator, "ISIS has the strategic initiative. The U.S. is simply reacting to wherever ISIS is threatening the most."



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Security forces watch a tow truck lift a destroyed vehicle at the site of a car bomb explosion in the largely Shiite eastern neighborhood of Talibiyah in Baghdad on Thursday.

Attacks in Iraq kill at least 47

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants unleashed a wave of attacks in Iraq on Thursday, mainly targeting Shiite areas in and around the capital of Baghdad, killing at least 47 people and wounding dozens, authorities said.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the day's deadliest attack. The Sunni militant group

has overrun vast areas in western and northern Iraq as well as parts of neighboring Syria, and has vowed to destabilize and eventually take over Baghdad.

In that strike, two parked cars exploded simultaneously in a commercial area in the northern Dolaie neighborhood, killing 14 civilians and wounding 34 others, a police officer said.

Angry residents in the neighborhood threw stones at police checkpoints and police cars that arrived to respond to the blasts, prompting police to withdraw from the area.

Senior Iraqi officials have tried to reassure residents that the capital is too well-protected for militants to capture, even as they struggle to stop frequent near-daily deadly attacks.

Kurds are holding their own in Syria

The Associated Press

MURSITPINAR, Turkey — Intensified U.S.-led airstrikes and a determined Kurdish military force on the ground appear to have had some success in halting advances by Islamic State fighters on a strategic Kurdish town near Syria's border with Turkey — at least for now.

On Wednesday, the Kurdish militiamen were fighting ferocious street battles with the Sunni extremists in Kobani and making advances on some fronts, hours after the U.S.-led coalition stepped up its aerial campaign.

In a surprising display of resilience, the Kurdish fighters have held out against the more experienced jihadists a month into the militants' offensive on the frontier town, hanging on to their territory against all expectations.

"People underestimate the power of determination," said Farhad Shami, a Kurdish activist in Kobani. "The Kurds have a cause and are prepared to die fighting for it."

The Islamic State launched

its offensive on Kobani in mid-September, capturing dozens of nearby Kurdish villages and a third of the town in lightning advances that sent massive waves of civilians fleeing across the border into Turkey.

Days later, the U.S. and its allies began bombing Islamic State targets in Syria, but the strikes were slow to take off in Kobani and appeared largely ineffective. Expectations were that the town would fall to the militants within days.

The Kurdish fighters, however, have put up a formidable fight, despite feeling a deep sense of abandonment by an international community they believe has failed to come to their rescue as it did with their brethren and other minorities in Iraq threatened by Islamic State militants.

Abdurrahman and other Syria observers say the Kurds have shown much more tenacity and resilience than other Syrian rebel factions who ended up making "tactical retreats" or simply fled jihadi onslaughts in other areas of Syria.

Equally important in the past few days has been several concentrated airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition in and around Kobani targeting Islamic State infrastructure and positions.

The U.S. military says it launched 39 airstrikes near Kobani in the past 48 hours, designed to disrupt Islamic State reinforcements and resupply and to prevent the extremist group's fighters from massing combat power on the Kurdish-held sections of Kobani.

Plumes of smoke rising from the strikes were visible across the border in Turkey.

Capitalizing on those strikes, fighters of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, made some progress against the militants. Wednesday, said Asya Abdullah, a Syrian Kurdish leader.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said the Kurdish forces planted two flags on the hill after retaking it from the Islamic State and removing the black flag the extremists had hoisted earlier in the week.

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The House Armed Services Committee's majority staff declined to comment on the report.



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MILITARY

Choice Cards are unlikely to make deadline

By TOM PHILPOTT

Congress last August gave the Department of Veteran Affairs 90 days to issue medical Choice Cards to 9.1 million veterans enrolled in VA care.

The tight deadline of Nov. 5 won't be met, say representatives of major veteran organizations who attend periodic VA briefings on plans for rollout of the Choice Card.

The card will ensure veterans have access to private sector health care if they live more than 40 miles from a VA clinic or hospital, or if they face unacceptable waits, usually longer than 30 days, to access VA health care.

The simple guarantee, centerpiece of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, is not so simple to deliver, at least in 90 days.

"I have heard nothing to lead me to believe they will get any [cards] out by November 5th," said Joseph Violante, legislative director for Disabled American Veterans. He doesn't even think the VA has picked a vendor yet to make the cards.

The VA declined a request to interview the official in charge of the Choice Card rollout because key decisions are not yet final. A VA statement called the law "highly complex" and said officials are struggling to make it "as quickly and efficiently as possible," and the goal has always been to meet the timelines set forth in the Act.

Vet advocates didn't disagree. Violante said he thought from the start the 90-day deadline was impossible for the VA to meet.

While the card program is to end in three years or when \$10 billion has been spent on care, whichever occurs first, the VA still must build or buy expertise to run it, write regulations to govern it and decide how to monitor providers and care they deliver. It also must ensure health records are returned to the VA to be merged with VA records for continuity of care. The VA also must educate vets on who can use the card, how they can use it and when.

Roughly 700,000 to 800,000 veterans, less than 10 percent of current enrollees, will be eligible to use the card immediately if they need care. About 300,000 of those qualify because they live far from VA care. The VA intends to issue cards to those two groups as soon

as it can.

Later, in phases, it will send cards to all other veterans enrolled in VA health care as of Aug. 1, and to those who enroll later if they had active-duty service in a theater of combat operations within the previous five years.

The mandate in the law to give the card to more than 8 million veterans who won't be eligible to use it worries vet advocates. Some veterans or even doctors could be confused and accept care the VA won't cover.

Others will be surprised that the law makes the VA payer of last resort when a Choice Card is used, said Bob Norton, deputy director of government relations for the Military Officer Association of America. That means users with other health insurance or Tricare eligibility will see those plans billed for any care arranged using the card. For Tricare to be tapped, the veteran will have to be a military disabled retiree or longevity retiree. "I'm sure DoD is not going to be very happy," Norton said.

The VA already knows who lives more than 40 miles from VA care. But the law allows the VA to adjust the 30-day wait threshold and it likely will, based on type of care needed. Waits longer than 30 days might be reasonable, for example, for hearing exams, with shorter waits for cardiology appointments.

When vets get their cards, they will have a phone number to call to verify eligibility and begin use. The VA likely will decide it must offer veterans a choice to use a VA-contracted provider or find their own physician. If so, when veterans choose non-network providers, Violante predicted, "it's going to create a terrible situation for VA to try to follow that veteran's treatment."

Bob Wallace, executive director of Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the VFW would prefer that eligible vets pick providers from the VA Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) networks, run by TriWest Healthcare Alliance of Phoenix and HealthNet Federal Services, of Arlington, Va. PC3 already backstops VA health care on primary and specialty care needs. Its providers also must meet VA timeliness and quality measures and make prompt transfer of medical records back to the VA.

"We don't want to see the vet-

eran go to someone who's not the specialist they need," Wallace said. "We also want to make sure the records go back to the VA because that could affect their claims down the road."

Some entity also needs to manage the program, from verifying eligibility to coordinating episodes of care to paying providers and collecting co-pay from vets when appropriate. Rather than build that capacity, the VA leans toward hiring a third-party administrator with nationwide experience such as Aetna or Kaiser.

MILITARY UPDATE

As Congress rushed to shape legislation to address the wait-time scandal across multiple VA facilities, it was Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who insisted Choice Card be part of the final package. Many vet groups are wary of its potential to shift veterans' care and resources permanently to the private sector and weaken the VA's integrated health system with its unmatched array of specialty care services for the most severely ill and injured.

Vet groups have argued that the VA simply was underfunded, leaving it short of doctors, nurses, support staff and space as enrollments grew, leading to long waits and cooked books. The Congressional Research Service in June said VA health care enrollment rose 78 percent since 2001. That's

the effect of recent wars and of decisions tying many vet health conditions today to long ago exposures to combat stress and toxins such as Agent Orange.

Choice Card has created sky-high expectations among vets who hope for unlimited access to any type of care. Many vets also are expecting to get the card soon, a point Carl Blake, legislative director for Paralyzed Veterans of America, said he has emphasized in meetings with VA officials.

"We have impressed upon them they probably need to figure out a way to have something rolling out" by Nov. 5, Blake said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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Training may affect
traffic on Ramstein

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A joint German-American training exercise planned for Ramstein Air Base on Saturday may cause some gate closures and traffic delays on or around the base.

Members of the 86th Airlift Wing will participate in the exercise, along with German volunteer fire departments, first responders and medical services from Kaiserslautern, Donnersberg and Birkenfeld counties, according to an Air Force news release.

Residents in local communities

may hear noise from the use of the public address system, smoke machines and emergency vehicles, as well as other activities from the flight line area. Those activities should not be cause for concern, the Air Force said.

Traffic on or around the base may also be affected, and gates may be closed temporarily.

The exercise is based on the Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Fire Protection, General Aid and Disaster Preparedness. It tests responders' preparedness and is not related to any real-world events, a base spokesman said Thursday.

From staff reports

MILITARY

Witness takes deal in AFN slaying case

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Spc. Cody Kramer pleaded guilty Thursday to lying to investigators as part of a pretrial agreement that requires him to testify against a colleague charged with murder in the death of an American Forces Network broadcaster.

A military judge sentenced Kramer to nine months of confinement, a reduction to private and forfeiture of \$1,000 a month for nine months. Because of the pretrial agreement, Kramer's sentence will be reduced to six months, with credit for 106 days he spent confined to Sembach Kaserne.

Few details about the mid-December 2013 slaying of Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepusov emerged in Thursday's proceeding, and no witnesses were called to testify until the sentencing portion of the proceeding. Kramer waived the right to a military jury and instead faced only a judge, who accepted his guilty plea after more than an hour of questioning.

Kramer told the judge that Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver, who will go on trial in January, "is the man who committed the murder."

Oliver was pulled over for driving erratically Dec. 14, 2013, and German police discovered Chepusov dead in the passenger seat of his car.

Kramer also testified that Oliver had tried to solicit him to kill another servicemember who was present during the killing after Oliver told Kramer he had killed Chepusov.

"I started to panic," Kramer said. "I started to hyperventilate." He said Oliver showed him Chepusov's body, and he touched the sailor's head to see if he was alive. Kramer said he didn't try to revive Chepusov when he realized he was dead.

Kramer told the judge that Oliver asked him to help move the body, but he refused, telling Oliver, "I can't have anything to do with this."

Investigators questioned Kramer about the slaying on Dec. 19, then again on Dec. 27 on suspicion that he'd earlier lied to police. During the second meeting, he told an Army special agent that he'd slept through the altercation between Oliver and Chepusov. As part of his plea agreement, he admitted that was a lie.

"I was awake the entire time," he told the judge Thursday.

The night of the slaying, Kramer was one of five servicemembers hanging out at the apartment of Air Force Staff Sgt. Thomas Skinkle after drinking in downtown Kaiserslautern. All five of the men worked for AFN at Ramstein Air Base.

On the way to Skinkle's, Kramer, he and Chepusov got into an argument over an incident at an office Thanksgiving party a few weeks earlier. The argument picked up later inside the apartment's kitchen.

That argument ended when Kramer left the kitchen and went to the living room, he said. Later, Oliver began arguing with Chepusov in the kitchen.

Kramer said he'd lied to agents about whether he'd seen any part of the altercation between Oliver and Chepusov out of fear of getting dragged into the investigation. Kramer was 5 years old when his 3-year-old sister was abducted and killed, and he said the situation reminded him of that and that he had a history of trying to hide from trouble.

Under oath, he told the judge, "I had seen Staff Sgt. Oliver on top of Chepusov's body."

Before the slaying, Kramer had put Skinkle to bed in his room, leaving only himself and Air Force Staff Sgt. Shao-Lung Ping in the living room, which was separated from the kitchen by a door. Ping left after the killing, and Kramer said Oliver asked him to kill Ping.

Asked why Oliver made such a solicitation, Kramer told the judge he believed Oliver was concerned that Ping might have seen something.

During sentencing arguments, Capt. Daniel O'Connor, one of two lawyers for the prosecution, asked the judge to sentence Kramer to a dishonorable discharge and at least three years of confinement. The sentence, he said, is about "honoring the dead."

Capt. Samuel Landes, one of Kramer's defense attorneys, said the false official statement to which Kramer pleaded guilty to making wasn't as serious as the prosecution was making it out to be and that it didn't have any impact on the case.

By the time Kramer made the statement, Oliver had already been confined and had confessed to the killing, Landes said.

"He's not guilty of obstructing justice" or an accessory to murder. And, Landes said, Kramer is the only witness who can testify to the fact that Chepusov was already dead when Oliver put him in the passenger seat of the car.

Kramer will have to testify against his former friend and colleague to fulfill his end of the pretrial agreement.

Chepusov's family was critical of the outcome of the proceedings against Kramer, alleging that the Army rushed to broker a pretrial agreement without crucial DNA evidence in hand.

"Dmitry's family views Kramer as a criminal and as an accomplice to this murder," Dennis Bushmitch, one of Chepusov's brothers, said in a statement. "He had numerous chances to prevent our brother and son from being assaulted and then ruthlessly murdered."

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Afghans arrest 2 Haqqani leaders

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two senior leaders of the al-Qaida-linked Haqqani network have been arrested in eastern Khost province, the Afghan intelligence service said Thursday, claiming a major blow to the Pakistan-based militant group.

Anis Haqqani, a brother of the network's leader, and Hafiz Rashid, who allegedly helped equip suicide bombers and select targets for attacks, were detained

Tuesday in a special operation, the National Directorate of Security said in a statement.

"It is one of the biggest and most important arrests by NDS, and has strategic impact on this network and can cause disorder in its operations and weaken its fighting capabilities," the statement said, without providing details. The Associated Press could not immediately reach a Taliban spokesman for comment.

The statement said Anis Haqqani was an expert in computers and use of propaganda through social

networks, and played a key role in the group's strategic decisions as a deputy to his brother, network leader Sirajuddin Haqqani.

"He (Anis) was responsible for collecting and preparing funds from Arabic countries to carry out operations of this network," the NDS statement said.

Rashid was responsible for choosing targets and providing equipment to suicide bombers in Afghanistan, it said.

The Haqqanis are allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban.

From The Associated Press

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EBOLA OUTBREAK

GOP: Government credibility wanes on Ebola

By ERICA WERNER
AND MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers indignantly criticized the government response to the arrival of Ebola on U.S. shores Thursday in a tense congressional hearing. Top public health officials defended their actions as American public unease grew over the possibility of the deadly virus spreading widely here — something health experts insisted was a remote possibility.

"People are scared," said

Rep. Fred Upton, a Republican and chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. "People's lives are at stake, and the response so far has been unacceptable."

Dr. Thomas Frieden, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said he remained confident in the ability of the U.S. health care system to combat Ebola.

"Working with our partners we have been able to stop every prior Ebola outbreak, and we will stop this one," he said. "We know how to control Ebola, even in this

period."

But even as he offered reassurances, Frieden raised alarms of his own about threats to this country if the raging epidemic in West Africa, which has already claimed more than 4,000 lives, cannot be stopped.

"There are no shortcuts in the control of Ebola and it is not easy to control it. To protect the United States we need to step it at its source," he said.

"One of the things I fear about Ebola is that it could spread more widely in Africa. If this were to happen, it could become a threat

to our health system and the health care we give for a long time to come."

Fears over the disease are on the rise as two nurses tested positive after caring for a patient in Dallas who died of the disease. One of them was cleared by the CDC to travel on a commercial plane after registering a slightly elevated fever, officials disclosed on Wednesday.

Lawmakers had tough questions on hospital protocols and travel restrictions. Several Republicans suggested a partial travel ban for people who've been

in West Africa.

Election-year politics were evident in the hearing room with balloting less than a month away. Two House members in highly contested Senate races, Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., and Rep. Bruce Braley, D-Iowa, left the campaign trail to appear at Thursday's hearing.

President Barack Obama canceled travel plans to stay at the White House and to oversee government's response to the Ebola problem.

Outbreak: Obama urges global emphasis on combating crisis in Africa

FROM FRONT PAGE

In Washington, President Barack Obama directed his administration to respond in a "much more aggressive way" to the threat and, for the second day in a row, canceled his out-of-town trips to stay in Washington and to monitor the Ebola response.

Even as Obama sought to calm new fears about Ebola in the U.S., he cautioned against letting them overshadow the far more urgent crisis unfolding in West Africa. Underlining his emphasis on international action, Obama called European leaders Wednesday to discuss better coordination in the fight against Ebola in West Africa and to issue a call for more money and personnel "to bend the curve of the epidemic."

On Thursday, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged continued support but made no specific, new aid offers. China last month pledged \$33 million in assistance and dispatched doctors and medical supplies.

Leading up to what was expected to be a combative hearing in Congress, the chairman of a House committee said it appeared that U.S. hospitals were not ready and health care workers weren't properly trained or equipped.

Federal health officials made "false assumptions" about the level of readiness and that "can get you in a lot of trouble," Rep. Tim Murphy said on MSNBC.

In Europe, Spain's government is wrestling with similar questions. The condition of a Spanish assistant infected with Ebola at a Madrid hospital appeared to be improving, but a person who came into contact with her before she was hospitalized developed a fever and was being tested Thursday.

That second person is not a health care worker, a Spanish Health Ministry spokesman said.

To this point, only hospital workers — the Madrid nursing assistant and the two nurses in Dallas — had been known to have contracted Ebola outside West Africa during the outbreak that began in March.

Amid increasing global concern, France said that on Saturday it will begin screening passengers who arrive at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport on the once-daily flight from Guinea's capital.

In the U.S., Customs and health officials at airports in Chicago, Atlanta, suburban Washington and Newark, N.J., were to begin taking the temperatures of passengers from the three hardest-hit West African countries Thursday. The screenings, using no-touch thermometers, started last Saturday at New York's Kennedy International Airport.

"Despite these latest incidents, we remain confident that our public health and health care systems can prevent an Ebola outbreak here," Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in prepared testimony for the hearing on Capitol Hill.

With hospitals and airports on heightened alert, Frieden said the CDC is receiving hundreds of requests for help in ruling out Ebola in travelers. So far, 12 cases merited testing, he said, but the patient who later died at the Dallas hospital has been the sole traveler with the disease.

Frieden said investigators are trying to figure out how the nurses caught the virus from that Liberian patient, Thomas Eric Duncan. In the meantime, he said, their cases show a need to strengthen the infection-control procedures that "allowed for exposure to the virus."

Duncan's death and the sick health care workers in the U.S. and Spain "intensify our concern about the global health threat," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

He said two Ebola vaccine candidates were undergoing a first phase of human clinical testing this fall. But he cautioned that scientists were still in the early stages of seeking new treatments or a vaccine.

A nurse at the Dallas hospital, Texas Health Presbyterian, on Thursday described a "chaotic scene" when the hospital faced its first Ebola patient, Liberian traveler Thomas Eric Duncan.

Briana Aguirre, who has helped treat the first nurse who was infected, told NBC's "Today" show she felt exposed in the protective gear the hospital provided.

"In the second week of an Ebola crisis at my hospital, the only gear they were offering us at that time,

and up until that time, is gear that is allowing our necks to be uncovered?" Aguirre said, adding that she piled on gloves and booties in triplicate and wore a plastic suit up to her neck.

The hospital said it used the protective gear recommended by the CDC and updated the equipment as CDC guidelines changed. Because nurses complained that their necks were exposed, the hospital ordered hoods for them, according to a statement from Texas Health Presbyterian.

Frieden said that Vinson never should have been allowed to fly on a commercial jetliner because she had been exposed to the virus while caring for the first Ebola patient.



TONY DEJAN/AP

Police keep watch Thursday on a home in Tallmadge, Ohio, where nurse Amber Joy Vinson stayed during the weekend before flying home to Dallas. Vinson was diagnosed with Ebola shortly after visiting the area last weekend.

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EUROPE

New private school a step closer in K-town

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Plans to open a private international school in Kaiserslautern by next fall advanced a step further after a sufficient number of families, including some Americans, expressed interest in sending their children there, city official said Thursday. "We have definite intent to move forward," said Andrea Oliver, the director of U.S. relations for the city.

Many details still need to be hashed out, but Oliver said it's likely International School Kaiserslautern would initially comprise kindergarten through middle-school grades, with the intention of expanding at some point to a full secondary school program.

Instruction would be in English with a strong secondary focus on German.

Families interested in learning more about the school are invited to attend two "open days" at International School Neustadt on Nov. 6 and Nov. 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Parents can register online for one of the open day time slots at: <http://is-kaiserslautern.de/>

The city circulated a survey this spring to gauge support for school.

Oliver said in May that the city needed to see at minimum potential interest from 180 to 200 students to move forward. Survey results indicated that about 330 children might enroll in the school, Oliver said. "That's par-

ents of children that expressed an interest," she said.

"We had responses from truly an international crowd," Oliver said. "We had Germans, some Americans, but also other nationalities," including from NATO families assigned to allied air command headquarters at Ramstein Air Base.

Air Force Master Sgt. Emily Lizak, who works for the allied air command's base support group, said Wednesday about 35 NATO employees and spouses attended a town hall meeting the command hosted in September to learn more about the school.

"There is an interest," she said.

The draw is the English-based curriculum. NATO families that don't qualify for free base schooling either pay to send their children to Department of Defense Dependents School or opt for a German school and hire tutors to assist with the language difference, she said.

As of May, 91 students paid tuition to attend a base school in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, according to an official with Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe. Those include children of Air Force and Army contractors, foreign service workers and U.S. companies. Annual tuition costs from \$23,000 to \$26,500, and the family member must have base access.

Tuition costs for the international school in Kaiserslautern are still being worked out, Oliver said. She offered a rough estimate of between 800 and 1,000 euros per month, per child, with



SLOBODAN LENIC/Stars and Stripes

A historic building on a hill overlooking central Kaiserslautern is a possible venue for the international school planned for the city. The complex, set in a large park, was previously used by German army as a regional recruitment office.

discounts given to additional children from the same family.

"Part of it depends on the number of kids that sign up, and it also depends on the cost of the facility," she said.

SBW Haus des Lernens would run the school. The Swiss company operates 16 schools worldwide, including one in the Rheinland-Pfalz city of Neustadt, according to its website. That school is about 45 minutes by car from downtown Kaiserslautern.

The city of Kaiserslautern initiated the project and sought a company that would run the school, Oliver said.

It's hoped the school will foster economic development and enhance the city's desirability as a location for international businesses. Helping the city facilitate the project is ZukunftsRegion Westpfalz, an association of business, political and other leaders from the region.

The city is looking for a location

for the school. Its "dream" spot is the former German military's recruiting center, a "beautiful," historical villa in the center of town, Oliver said. The German government owns the property but is expected to put it up for bid in the near future, she said.

"We have potential investors who are interested in buying it and renting it to the school," she said.

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SECRETARY OF STATE

NATION

Talk-show host Springer hits road for Ohio candidate

By ANN SANNER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An election fight is nothing compared with what Jerry Springer sees in his day job.

The former Cincinnati mayor now makes his money as the ringmaster of a pugilistic talk show circus, but he said it's the exchange of political ideas that excites him most.

Springer — once named "Democrat of the Year" in Ohio — remains politically active in the swing state where he previously aspired to be governor.



Springer

In recent years, Springer has headlined a county Democratic Party's annual dinner and appeared at a fish fry on behalf of a local candidate. On Thursday, he is slated to appear at an early-voting event in Warren for state Sen. Nina Turner, the Democratic candidate for Ohio's secretary of state.

"It's just something I believe in," he said in an interview Mon-

day with The Associated Press. "It sounds like a corny answer. But that's, honestly — there's no hidden motive. It's not like, you know, someone's going to get me a job."

At age 70, Springer said he doesn't plan to seek elected office, either. But he weighed it several times after serving as Cincinnati mayor in the late 1970s.

The former campaign aide to Robert F. Kennedy served on Cincinnati's city council — once winning back a seat after a prostitution scandal — and spent a year as mayor before a failed campaign for governor in 1982. He flirted with U.S. Senate bids before the 2000 and 2004 elections and toyed with another gubernatorial run in 2006.

"There's stuff I can do without personally running for office, and that is to back causes and candidates," he said.

Springer has given at least \$12,000 to gubernatorial candidate Ed FitzGerald, \$10,000 to attorney general candidate David Pepper, and \$5,000 to treasurer candidate Connie Pillich, according to state campaign finance reports this year. He also gave the state Democratic party at least \$28,000.

Senator's son among 4 indicted in dogs' deaths

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Four people — including a son of U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake — have been indicted on animal cruelty charges after 21 dogs died at a Gilbert, Ariz., kennel in June, prosecutors said Wednesday.

A grand jury indicted Green Acre Dog Boarding owners Jesse and Malesia Hughes along with daughter Logan Flake and son-in-law Austin Flake, Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery said.

The Hugheses said the animals died of heat exhaustion on June 2 in an 8-foot-by-12-foot room when one dog chewed through the air conditioner's power cord after the caretakers left the facil-

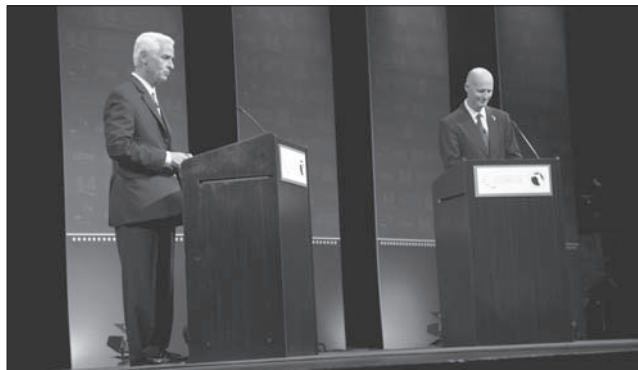
ity for the night.

The couple were vacationing in Florida at the time and said their daughter and son-in-law were in charge of watching the dogs, authorities said.

The Hugheses reportedly tried to save the animals by hosing and icing them down, but authorities said they didn't call for emergency assistance before the dogs died.

A veterinarian who performed necropsies on some of the dogs said they likely suffocated.

County sheriff's investigators said in July that no evidence was found that a chewed-up electrical wire had cut power to a cooling unit and forwarded the findings to Montgomery's office.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott, right, and his Democratic challenger, former Republican Gov. Charlie Crist, participate in their second debate Wednesday in Davie, Fla.

Florida out of the gate at start of early voting

By BILL BARROW
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Midterm elections are almost three weeks away, yet more than 904,000 Americans already have cast their ballots, with almost 60 percent of those early votes in Florida, according to data compiled by The Associated Press from election officials in 11 states.

Those numbers are climbing daily as more states begin their advance voting periods and more voters return mail-in ballots ahead of Nov. 4.

Early voting doesn't predict electoral outcomes, but both major parties emphasized the opportunity in recent elections as they try to lock in core supporters. Thirty-three states and the District of Columbia allow some form of advance voting other than traditional absentee voting requiring an excuse.

A spokesman for national Democrats, Justin Barasky, said the party is especially focused on encouraging early voting by Democrats who usually don't participate in midterms. Returns show that historically, casual voters who support Democrats in

presidential elections are more likely to stay home than average Republican voters.

In the 2010 midterms, when Republicans regained control of the House and won sweeping victories in statehouses around the country, advance voting accounted for almost 27 million ballots out of more than 89 million, meaning about 3 out of 10 voters cast early ballots. Almost 129 million people voted in the 2012 presidential election, 35.8 percent of them before Election Day.

This year's midterms will determine which party controls the Senate for the final two years of President Barack Obama's administration. Republicans are expected to pad their House majority. There are also 36 governor's races.

Noteworthy figures from around the country:

■ **Florida:** Republican Gov. Rick Scott faces a tough re-election challenge from Democrat Charlie Crist, himself a former Republican governor who switched parties to run for his old job. GOP voters account for 48.3 percent of the 535,000 ballots already cast, with registered Democrats accounting for 34.5 percent.

■ **Iowa:** In a state key to Senate control, registered Democrats account for 45 percent of the 151,656 early ballots returned in Iowa, with Republicans at 39 percent and independents at 16 percent. Republican Senate candidate Joni Ernst hopes to pick up one of the six additional seats the GOP needs for a majority. Rep. Bruce Braley also seeks to succeed Democrat Tom Harkin, who is retiring.

■ **Georgia:** With two high-profile races, almost 67,000 Georgians already have voted, about 8.5 percent of the 2010 advance vote total. Republican David Perdue and Democrat Michelle Nunn are in a tight Senate race to succeed Republican Saxby Chambliss, who's retiring. Democratic state Sen. Jason Carter, the former president's grandson, wants to unseat Republican Gov. Nathan Deal.

■ **North Carolina:** The battle between Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan and Republican challenger Thom Tillis is intense, but mail-in ballots are only a trickle since in-person advance voting has yet to begin. Through Wednesday morning, election offices had received just 10,000 returned early ballots, just 1 percent of the 2010 total.

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NATION

Millions plan to participate in earthquake drill

The Associated Press

LA MIRADA, Calif. — Millions of people planned to drop, cover and hold on in a drill Thursday to prepare communities in California and elsewhere for the next big earthquake.

More than 10 million Californians signed up to participate at 10:16 a.m. PDT in addition to another 15 million people this year in dozens of states and countries including Italy and Canada, according to organizers.

A full-scale exercise for emergency responders to prepare for a potential magnitude-6.7 earthquake also was to be held at Biola University in La Mirada. The suburb southeast of Los Angeles was rattled by a magnitude-5.1 earthquake in March.

The annual drill began in 2008 in California. Held every year on the Great ShakeOut and how Californians can prepare for an earthquake:

■ **Drop, cover, hold on.** The best way for residents to survive an earthquake is not to start running, said Ken Kondo, emergency program manager at the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. The key is to drop, seek cover under a table and hold on to avoid being thrown or struck by falling debris, he said. Kondo added that residents who fleeing their homes in a recent Northern California earthquake injured their feet while running over broken glass. Resi-

dents should keep an emergency kit with a flashlight, batteries, radio and covered shoes under the bed, he said.

■ **Simulated response.** In past years, organizers have carried out the full-scale exercise at an elementary school, a train station and a medical center. A university campus presents a distinct challenge because students who hail from less earthquake-prone regions may not know what to do, Kondo said. At Biola University, two dozen students were to act as victims in a simulated disaster scene.

■ **Major earthquakes.** California has not suffered a devastating quake since the 1994 Northridge disaster that killed 60 people and injured more than 7,000 in metropolitan Los Angeles. In 1989, a magnitude-6.9 earthquake in the San Francisco Bay region killed 63 people, injured nearly 3,800 and caused up to \$10 billion in damage.

■ **Injuries and damage.** A magnitude-6.0 earthquake struck Napa Valley earlier this year. One woman suffered a head injury and later died and scores of people were injured. In Southern California, buildings damaged in the March earthquake are still being repaired. Brea's City Hall has undergone \$350,000 in repairs while fixes still need to be made to local schools, said Anna Cave, the city's emergency preparedness coordinator.

Seattle megachurch's embattled founder quits

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Seattle megachurch founder Mark Driscoll, who has been under fire amid questions about his leadership style and falling membership in his Mars Hill Church, has stepped down, the church announced on its website Wednesday.

Driscoll, whose church grew to attract more than 12,000 at branches across five states, submitted his resignation Tuesday as elder and lead pastor, concluding "it would be best for the health of our family, and for the Mars Hill family, that we step aside from further ministry at the church," according to the Mars Hill website.

The church currently has multiple branches in Washington and one location each in Oregon, California and New Mexico. Last month it closed its Phoenix location as a Mars Hill church.

Driscoll's resignation came after a group of church elders recently ended an investigation into a series of formal charges brought against him.

The church's board said on its website Wednesday that Driscoll was not asked to resign, and that they were surprised to receive his resignation letter.

Driscoll took a leave of absence in August so church leaders could investigate whether he was fit to lead, following accusations that he bullied members, threatened opponents, lied and oversaw mismanagement of church funds, the Seattle Times has reported.

The church said Wednesday that its lengthy investigation found Driscoll has been "guilty of arrogance, responding to conflict with a quick temper and harsh speech, and leading the staff and elders in a domineering manner."



PHOTOS BY JAC C. HONG/AP

Inmate Michael Sterling, center, performs Sept. 30 during an Actors' Gang Prison Project workshop at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, Calif.

Pilot program returns arts funding to California prisons

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

The Associated Press

NORCO, Calif. — Christopher Bisbano leaps onto the stage and his body transforms: He cries out for his true love, and then contorts his face into a droopy pout as the audience hollers with laughter. "I loooooove yoooo, is-aaaah-bell-aaaa!" he cries, drawing out each syllable for extra laughs as his hat slips jauntily to the side.

Bisbano, 47, is one of the most talented actors on this stage, with years of experience — but he is also a convicted felon doing 23 years and 4 months in a California state prison for attempted murder.

Now, the nonprofit acting program that trained Bisbano behind bars is expanding thanks to its slice of a \$2.5 million arts pilot project from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The funding will bring state-funded arts of all kinds to inmates at more than a dozen prisons for the first time since California's once-renowned prison arts network withered during tough budget times more than a decade ago.

The arts investment comes as California enters the third year of a dramatic overhaul of prisons. With support from Gov. Jerry Brown, the budget for prison rehabilitation programs jumped by more than \$20 million last year, with funding for arts guaranteed until 2016.

Those backing the arts hope the new funding will help prove a link between participation and success upon parole to help combat a recidivism rate that at one point approached 70 percent.

The investment is "basically saying that there's many angles to take for rehabilitation and the arts is one of them — it's very powerful," said Caitlin Fitzwater, of the California Arts Council, which is



Actor Tim Robbins, center, who serves as the artistic director of the Actors' Gang Prison Project, laughs while watching inmates perform.

working closely with Corrections to administer the funding.

Critics say they are wary of pouring so much money into the arts when the state is still struggling to implement parts of its prison reform.

Three years ago, the state shifted responsibility for lower-level felons to county jails, leaving only the most serious offenders in state prison.

"You need to teach them how to get a job. You need to teach them how to keep from going back to that environment in the first place," said Harriet Salarno, founder and chairwoman of Crime Victims United of California.

A small study done by state prison officials in the 1980s — when California's earlier arts program was robust — followed parolees for two years and found that those who had participated were 27 percent less likely to reoffend.

But arts advocates acknowledge there aren't any current studies that show similar results. They point instead to anecdotal evidence, including interviews with inmates, that suggests those who participate in the arts have

fewer behavioral problems and better self-esteem than those who don't.

"It's not just painting your face and putting on a costume. They're really examining what they're thinking and feeling and why they react the way they do in certain situations," said Kristina Khokhobashvili, a prison spokeswoman. "We were looking for programs that go deep."

At a recent performance at the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, 16 inmates of all races riffed off each other as they showed off their improvisational skills. The performance capped an eight-week class run by The Prison Project, an outreach of actor Tim Robbins' company, The Actors' Gang.

The nonprofit has been working with inmates since 2006 and has a 200-inmate waiting list. Now, it will expand to two more prisons this year and more next year.

"It gives them a way to focus their energies and to get in touch with emotional states that they've never felt in their life," said Robbins, who works with inmates regularly.

WORLD

Hong Kong leader offers talks as anger rises

By SYLVIA HUI
AND KELVIN CHAN
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's leader tried to soothe the tensions with student-led democracy demonstrators Thursday by reviving an offer of talks, though public anger over a video of police kicking a handcuffed activist complicates efforts to end an increasingly bitter political standoff.

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said the government is ready to start a dialogue with protest leaders as soon as next week.

There was no immediate response from the student leaders,

and it was unclear whether the proposed meeting can overcome the vast differences between the two sides.

Many in Hong Kong were outraged after police officers were caught on camera early Wednesday kicking a protester with his hands cuffed behind his back. The seven officers, who have been suspended, were among hundreds battling with activists for two nights in a row over control of a busy road next to city government headquarters and near the protesters' main occupation zone.

Tensions between the two sides

have escalated in the past few days as riot police armed with pepper spray and batons moved to retake some occupied streets.

"As long as students or other sectors in Hong Kong are prepared to focus on this issue, yes, we are ready, we are prepared to start the dialogue," Leung told reporters, adding that middlemen, whom he did not identify, had been in touch with student protest leaders to convey the government's wishes.

The protesters have taken over major roads and streets in business and shopping districts across the city since Sept. 28 to

press for a greater say in choosing the semiautonomous Chinese city's leader in an inaugural direct election, promised for 2017.

Leung did not directly respond to questions about when police will move in to clear the sites, though he said that while authorities have tolerated the civil disobedience movement until now, it "cannot go on indefinitely."

"Going forward, we cannot allow the occupying of streets to have a negative impact on Hong Kong society. Police will use appropriate methods to deal with this problem," he said.

Authorities angered protesters

when they abruptly called off a scheduled meeting with student leaders last week, saying talks were unlikely to produce constructive results.

Protesters oppose the Chinese central government's ruling that a committee stacked with pro-Beijing elites should screen candidates in the territory's first direct election. That effectively means that Beijing can vet candidates before they go to a public vote.

Leung stressed that Beijing's position will not change but said there is scope for negotiations on how the committee that nominates candidates is formed.

Serb police nab drone that triggered ruckus

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serbian police have found the drone that flew an Albanian nationalist banner over a soccer stadium in Belgrade, igniting a brawl on the field and fueling political tensions between Balkan rivals Serbia and Albania.

The small drone with four rotors — last seen being carried off by a Serb fan during the stadium brawl Tuesday night — will be checked to see where it was manufactured and purchased and who could have flown it, police chief Nebojsa Stefanovic said Thursday.

He accused Albanians of being "exclusively" to blame for the clashes.

The violence broke out after the drone, dangling a map of Albania enlarged to include chunks of several neighbors, circled over the field during the first half of Tuesday night's game.

The match was later abandoned.

Serbia and Albania have been

at odds for decades, mainly over Kosovo, a former ethnic Albanian-dominated Serbian province that declared independence in 2008. Serbia has never accepted Kosovo's independence.

UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, opened disciplinary cases against both countries over the game.

Besides the brawls on the field, the Albanian anthem was loudly jeered by Serbian fans before the game in Belgrade and derogatory chants were heard throughout.

Serbian supporters also threw flares and other objects at Albanian players, as well as attacking them on the field.

The Albanian Football Federation said Thursday that its players were repeatedly hit by fans and police and had to endure offensive chants like "Kill the Albanians!" It defended the Albanian players' decision not to continue the match.

"The AFA is of the opinion that the ... mentioned actions negatively impacted the normal conduct of the match, which was ultimately abandoned," the federation said.



Provided by the Nepalese Army/AP

Soldiers prepare to airlift an avalanche victim Wednesday in Thorong La pass area, Nepal.

Death toll in Nepal blizzard, avalanche increases to 27

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA
The Associated Press

KATMANDU, Nepal — Search teams in army helicopters rescued dozens of stranded foreign trekkers and recovered more bodies of victims of a blizzard and avalanches in Nepal's northern mountains Thursday, raising the death toll to 27.

About 70 people were still missing along or near the popular Annapurna trail, said Ganga Sagar Pant, of the Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal, and the death toll there was expected to rise.

The route, 100 miles northwest of the capital, Katmandu, was filled with international hikers during the peak October trekking season, when the air is generally clear and cool. There were also many Nepalese on the trails because of local festivals.

Government administrator Yama Bahadur Chokhyal said

rescuers recovered 10 more bodies from the Thorong La pass area, where they had been caught in a sudden blizzard Tuesday.

The bodies were not yet identified. The bodies of two Poles, an Israeli and a Nepalese were recovered from the area on Wednesday.

Chokhyal said 64 more foreign trekkers were rescued from the area on Thursday. Two trekkers from Hong Kong and 12 Israelis were airlifted Wednesday to Katmandu, where they were being treated at a hospital.

They said they survived by taking refuge in a small tea shop along the path.

"I was sure I was going to die on the way to the pass because I lost my group, I lost all the people I was with and I could not see anything," said Linor Kajan, an injured Israeli who said she was stuck in waist-deep snow.

"One Nepalese guide who knows

the way saw me and asked me to stay with him. And he dragged me, really dragged me to the tea shop. And everybody there was really frightened," she said.

Another Israeli survivor, Yakov Megreli, said they tried to stay awake in the tea shop to stay warm.

"We tried not to sleep," Megreli said. "We tried not to get hypothermia. It was a very frightening and awful situation."

The blizzard, the tail end of a cyclone that hit the Indian coast a few days earlier, appeared to contribute to an avalanche that killed at least eight people in Phu village in neighboring Manang district. The dead included one Indian and four Canadian trekkers as well as three villagers, said government official Devendra Lamichane.

The foreigners' bodies were buried in up to 6½ feet of snow, and digging them out will take days, he said.

Category 4 Hurricane Gonzalo aims for Bermuda

The Associated Press

HAMILTON, Bermuda — People on the small, British territory of Bermuda rushed to huddle down for Hurricane Gonzalo, which was roaring toward them as a major Category 4 storm just days after a tropical storm damaged homes and knocked down trees and power lines.

Dennis Felgen, a meteorologist at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, said it was too early to tell whether the hurricane would hit Bermuda on Friday, but he warned residents to be prepared for severe weather.

"The eye of the hurricane does

not have to go over Bermuda for them not to experience severe conditions," he said in a phone interview Wednesday.

Gonzalo had top sustained winds of 140 mph early Thursday and it was centered about 540 miles south-southwest of Bermuda. It was moving north at 9 mph, the hurricane center said.

A hurricane warning was in effect for Bermuda, and forecasters said a dangerous storm surge accompanied by destructive waves could cause significant flooding on the island, which is about one-third the size of Washington. Some 3 to 6 inches of rain was predicted.

WORLD

'I believe they are part of the problem'

Thai soaps trigger outcry over romanticizing rape

BY JOCELYN GECKER
AND THANAYARAT DOKSONE
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — In a famous scene from Thailand's award-winning soap opera "The Power of Shadows," the handsome protagonist gets drunk and rapes the leading lady. He later begs her forgiveness, and the producers say they will live happily ever after in the sequel.

Boy Meets Girl, Boy Rapes Girl, Boy Marries Girl. The premise is so common in Thailand's popular primetime melodramas it could be called a national twist on the universal romantic plotline. But calls for change are growing.

The recent real-life rape and murder of a girl on an overnight train in Thailand has focused national outrage on messages in popular culture that trivialize — and some say even encourage — rape. Even the powerful general who took over the country in a coup this year had to apologize after suggesting that women who wear bikinis on the beach are vulnerable to sexual assault.

Many in the soap opera industry continue to defend sexual violence, in part, as a key to high ratings in a fiercely competitive industry that draws more than 18 million viewers a night to network television, nearly a quarter of Thailand's population.

Award-winning director Sithawat Tappan even describes some rape scenes as a sort of public service.

"There might be a scene where a woman is dressed sexy, and she walks past a man who has been drinking, and it shows on his face that he's aroused and wants her," Sithawat said. "In the end, she succumbs to the physical power of the man."

"Scenes like this try to teach society that women should not travel alone or wear revealing clothes," the director said. "And men shouldn't drink."

But rapists are seldom punished in TV melodramas, and their victims rarely talk about it. That might, at least, be reflected in real life.

Last year, the Public Health Ministry said its hotlines received 31,866 calls from victims of rape or sexual assault. But police that year filed only 3,300 rape cases, and made just 2,245 arrests. Even the hotline number is believed to be far lower than the actual number of assaults in this Southeast

'Soap operas send the message that rape is acceptable. This is something that needs to stop.'

Nitipan Wiprawit
architect who launched an online petition asking soap operas to stop romanticizing rape

Asian country of 67 million.

Public concern about rape in Thai society grew this past summer, after a 13-year-old girl was raped on an overnight train, then suffocated and thrown out the window. A 22-year-old train employee has been convicted of the attack and sentenced to death, and the rail authority has introduced a women-and-children-only sleeper carriage with policemen as guards.

Indignant newspaper editorials and TV talk shows have triggered a national conversation, and an online petition asking soap operas to stop romanticizing rape has attracted more than 30,000 signatures.

"I'm not saying soap operas are the cause of rape in Thailand. But I believe they are part of the problem," said Nitipan Wiprawit, 36, an architect who launched the petition. "Soap operas send the message that rape is acceptable. This is something that needs to stop."

As a result of Nitipan's petition, the national broadcasting commission has organized roundtables that bring directors and screenwriters together with health and human rights experts to discuss the messages soap operas deliver. The latest one focused on how TV sexual violence influences Thai children, who are often raised on a steady diet of nighttime soaps that parents switch on after dinner.

"Some producers might say that what they're producing doesn't have an impact on people, but I assure you it does," Kemporn Wutthirapan, of Thailand's Child and Youth Media Institute, told the forum. "The more children see repetitive images of violence, the more it will be reinforced in their minds."

In a poll of more than 2,000 youths conducted by Thailand's Assumption University in 2008, more than 20 percent of 13- to 19-year olds said rape scenes were

their favorite part of TV shows. The same percentage of teenagers said they found rape to be a normal and acceptable act in society.

Yossinee Nanakorn, producer of one of Thailand's best-known soaps "Prisoner of Love," said rape scenes are sometimes essential to plotlines.

"Soap operas are all about conflict. Without conflict there's no story," she said. "We try to avoid rape scenes, but if it helps drive the story then we keep it."

The idea that some forms of sexual violence are acceptable is reflected even in the Thai language.

The word "blum," which translates roughly as "wrestling," is how Thais describe unconsenting sex that a man initiates to make a woman fall in love with him. It is considered different from "khom-kheun," the criminal act of rape.

"Blum" is what transpires in "The Power of Shadows," said Arunoshha Bhanuporn, producer of the soap, which aired in 2012 and recorded the highest ratings in the history of its network.

"In theatrical terms, it was an act of love," the producer said, referring to the scene where the lead actor grabs the heroine and rapes her after she slaps him and screams, "Let me go!"

"It wasn't rape. It was more romantic, because they were in love."



SANCHAI LALIT/AP

A female railway police officer takes care of children while their mother goes to buy soft drink in a train carriage for women and children at a train station in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sept. 22.

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WORLD

French girls' path to jihad started online

By LORI HINNANT
The Associated Press

LEZIGNAN-CORBIERES, France — On the day she left for Syria, Sahra strode along the train platform with her bulky schoolbags slung over her shoulder. In a grainy image caught on security camera, the French teen tucks her hair into a headscarf.

Just two months earlier and a two-hour drive away, Nora, also a teen girl, had embarked on a similar journey in similar clothes. Her brother later learned she'd been leaving the house every day in jeans and a pullover, then changing into a full-body veil.

Neither had ever set foot on an airplane. Yet both journeys were planned with the precision of a seasoned traveler and expert in deception, from Sahra's ticket for the March 11 Marseille-Istanbul flight to Nora's secret Facebook account and overnight crash pad in Paris.

Sahra Ali Mehenni and Nora El-Bahy are among some 100 girls and young women from France who have left to join jihad in Syria, up from just a handful 18 months ago, when the trip was not even on Europe's security radar, officials say. They come from all walks of life — first- and second-generation immigrants from Muslim countries, white French backgrounds, even a Jewish girl, according to a security official who spoke anonymously because rules forbid him to discuss open investigations.

These departures are less the whims of adolescents and more the highly organized conclusions of months of legwork by networks that specifically target young people in search of an identity, according to families, lawyers and security officials. These mostly online networks recruit girls to serve as wives, baby sitters and housekeepers for jihadists, with the aim of planting multigenerational roots for an Islamic caliphate.

Girls are also coming from elsewhere in Europe, including between 20 and 50 from Britain.



FRED SCHEIBER/AP

Severine Ali Mehenni holds pictures of her daughter, Sahra, at her home in Lezignan Corbieres, France, this month. Sahra is one of the more than 100 girls from France who have left to join jihad in Syria.

However, the recruitment networks are particularly developed in France, which has long had a troubled relationship with its Muslim community, the largest in Europe. Distracted families plead that their girls are kidnap victims, but a proposed French law would treat them as terrorists liable to arrest upon return.

Sahra's family has talked to her three times since she left, but her mother, Severine, thinks her communication is scripted by jihadists, possibly from the Islamic State group.

"They are being held against their will," said Severine, a French woman of European descent. "They are over there. They're forced to say things."

The Ali Mehenni family lives in a middle-class home in Lezignan-Corbieres, a small town in the south of France. Sahra, who turned 18 this month, swooned over her baby brother and shared

As soon as I saw this second Facebook account I said, 'She's gone to Syria.'"

Foad El-Bahy
whose 15-year-old sister, Nora, left France in January to wage jihad

a room with her younger sister. But family relations turned testy when she demanded to wear the full Islamic veil, dropped out of school for six months and closed herself in her room with a computer.

Now she was in a new school. And she seemed to be maturing — she asked her mother to help her get a passport, because she wanted her paperwork as an adult in order.

On the morning of March 11, Sahra casually told her father she was taking extra clothing to school to teach her friends to wear the veil. He stifled his anxiety and drove her to the train station. He planned to meet her there just before dinner, as he did every night.

At luncheon, she called her mother. "I'm eating with friends, she said.

Surveillance video showed at that moment, Sahra was at the airport in Marseille, preparing to board an Istanbul-bound flight.

By nightfall, she had not returned. Her worried parents went to police.

They noticed the missing passport the next day.

"Everything was calculated. They did everything so that she could plan to the smallest detail," Severine said. "I never heard her talk about Syria, jihad. It was as though the sky fell on us."

Sahra told her brother in a brief call from Syria that she had married a 25-year-old Tunisian she had just met, and her Algerian-born father had no say because he wasn't a real Muslim.

Her family has spoken to her twice since then, always guardedly, and communicated a bit on Facebook. But her parents no longer know if she's the one posting the messages.

Nora's family knows less about her quiet path out of France, but considerably more about the network that arranged her one-way trip to Syria.

Nora grew up the third of six children in the El-Bahy family, the daughter of Moroccan immigrants in the tourist city of Avignon. Her parents are practicing Muslims, but the family does not consider itself strictly religious.

She was recruited on Facebook.

Nora was 15 when she departed for school on Jan. 23 and never came back.

The next day, Foad, her older brother, learned that she had been veiling herself on her way to school, that she had a second phone number, that she had a second Facebook account targeted by recruiters.

"As soon as I saw this second Facebook account I said, 'She's gone to Syria,'" Foad said.

Nora's destination was ultimately a "foreigners' brigade" for the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida branch in Syria, Foad said. The idea apparently was to marry her off. But she objected and one of the emirs intervened on her behalf. For now at least, she remains single, baby-sitting children of jihadists. She has said she wants to come home — and Foad traveled to Syria but was not allowed to leave with her.

"It is not at random that these girls are leaving," said family lawyer Guy Guenoun. "They are being guided. She was being commanded by remote control. And now she has made a trip to the pit of hell."

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WORLD

Berlin a draw for Israelis

Expats look past history for lower cost of living

By ARON HELLER
AND KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A group of young Israeli expats have unleashed controversy back home by encouraging others to join them in Berlin, touching on one of the most sensitive issues in Israel: the country's high cost of living and Jews' tortured history with Germany.

While Israelis have been angered after learning that food prices are much lower in Germany, they are also outraged that the youngsters' form of protest has been to give up on the Zionist dream by leaving the Jewish state and relocate to the birthplace of the Nazi Party, to boot. It ranks many in a society that once considered emigration shamefully akin to treason, at a time when many Israelis want to stick together after a brutal summer war in Gaza underscored greater political and security woes in Israel.

The uproar began several weeks ago when a 25-year-old former Israeli army officer flaunted photos of his grocery receipts — including those of a popular chocolate pudding that sells in Israel — and boasted about the good life in the German capital.

Now known as the "Milky" protest, after the pudding's Israeli name, the Facebook campaign has received 17,000 "likes," and pictures of Israelis holding signs asking German Chancellor Angela Merkel to give them a visa



ARIEL SCHULTZ/AP

Israeli Asaf Lev, center, attends a gathering encouraging others to immigrate to Berlin in Tel Aviv, Israel. A group of young Israeli expats are encouraging others to join them in Berlin.

have gone viral. Israeli TV channels have sent reporters to Berlin to cover the thriving Israeli expat community there.

The campaign marks a new channel for economic discontent, three years after a massive protest movement by hundreds of thousands of Israelis demanding lower prices, more affordable housing and a narrower gap between rich and poor largely failed in its goals.

But the political backlash has been even stronger, with the idealization of Berlin viewed as a hurtful provocation. Less than 70 years after the end of the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were killed, memories are still fresh — especially among Israel's large community of survivors — and there are those who still refuse to visit Germany or buy its products.

Finance Minister Yair Lapid, whose centrist Yesh Atid Party rode the 2011 protests to become a major player in Israeli politics, said he sympathized with the burden of the new protesters but not their method.

"These people are anti-Zion-

ists. I'm a Zionist, I think Jews should live in Israel," he said. "That doesn't change the fact that the cost of living is high here ... The cost of living is not the only question for a person to consider when deciding where to live and by which values."

The former army officer behind the protest said he still loves his country, defends it when it is slandered in Europe and would prefer to live in Tel Aviv but just can't afford it. He said his goal is to spur politicians like Lapid into action.

"My aim is to educate the Israeli government. They need to make Israel a more attractive place for young people," said the slim man with short-cropped black hair and dark brown eyes, in an interview the Associated Press in Berlin this week. He asked that his identity be withheld because he wants "the public to focus on the message, not on the messenger."

He said thousands of exasperated Israelis have asked him for help in getting visas. He reasons that if Israelis vote with their feet and simply leave the country,

the government will be forced to serve the public better.

Cabinet Minister Yair Shamir, son of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and a member of the ultranationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party, told the Maariv newspaper that he pities "the Israelis who no longer remember the Holocaust and abandoned Israel for a pudding."

In the daily Haaretz, columnist Ravit Hecht argued that such ultranationalists were actually driving the young away, but that was still no excuse to bolt. "Berlin is a lovely city, but it is sucking away all the forces that we desperately need here, especially now," she wrote.

Like many other expatriates drawn to Berlin's cheap housing and vibrant lifestyle, thousands of Israelis already call the city home. Since many enter Germany with other European passports or come for limited periods of time, it's hard to track exact numbers; estimates range from 3,000 to 30,000. Many come to enjoy free university study and work as artists and musicians. Others have opened small busi-



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Israeli Eran Levy, who moved to Berlin nine years ago, said he enjoys the calmer pace of life.

nesses and organized Hebrew language classes and activities for children. Those with German passports are also eligible for a welfare stipend of almost 400 euros a month.

Eran Levy, 46, who moved to Berlin nine years ago, said he enjoys the relief that his daughter is growing up far away from bomb shelters and rocket attacks.

"I like how people in Berlin are so nonjudgmental and take me as I am," said Levy, who works in customer service and is now fluent in German.

In practice, demographers say the phenomenon is more symbolic than actual.

The number of European Jews who move to Israel is much higher than the number of Israelis heading to Europe.

Take France alone, which has Western Europe's largest population of Jews, at about 500,000: Emigration this year to Israel is set to top the annual record of nearly 5,300 set after the Six-Day War in 1967, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel — in part due to concerns about militant Islam and France's sluggish economy.



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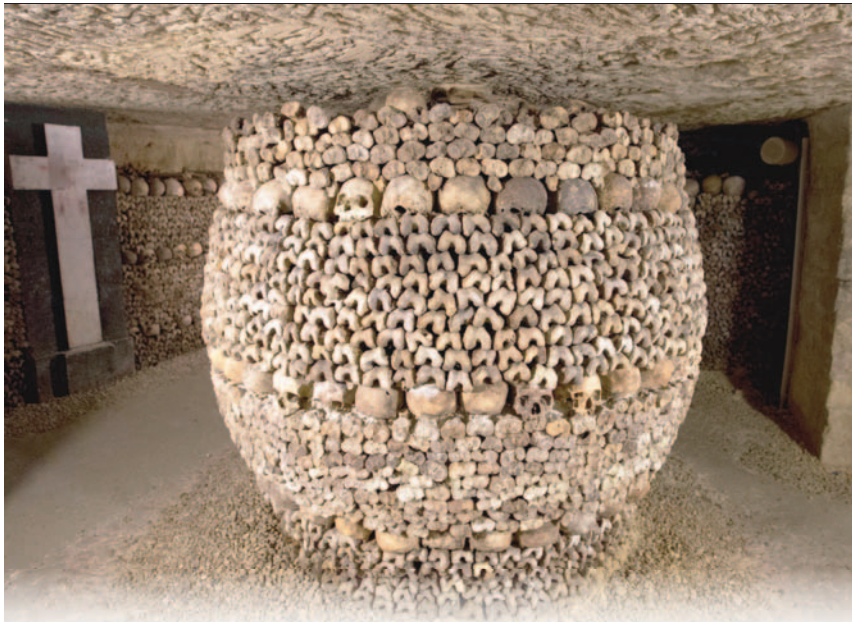
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WORLD



Paris Catacombs now open at night ahead of Halloween

By SYLVIE CORBET
The Associated Press

PARIS — As if visiting the Paris Catacombs in the daytime wasn't creepy enough — you can now visit the underground maze of skeletons after nightfall, too. That is if you dare defy the warning at the entrance: "Stop, this is the empire of Death."

The subterranean tunnels, stretching 1.2 miles, cradle the bones of some 6 million Parisians from centuries past and once gave refuge to smugglers.

Twenty 66 feet beneath the French capital's medieval streets, labyrinthine walls of bones and skulls bring visitors into the city of the dead, in a spooky atmosphere that attracts history enthusiasts as well as visitors looking for a chilling place to celebrate Halloween.

The site used to close at 5 p.m., but is now staying open until 8 p.m. The change is mainly aimed at allowing more people to visit and reducing long lines, but it also adds to the thrill: entering and leaving the catacombs after dark feels different from doing it in daylight.

Human remains started to be transferred to the former underground quarries of Paris in 1786, when the main cemetery

'The place was not conceived to be a horror place, but as a reflection on the meaning of life and death.'

Valerie Guillaume
director of the Catacombs



PHOTOS BY FRANCOIS MORE/AP

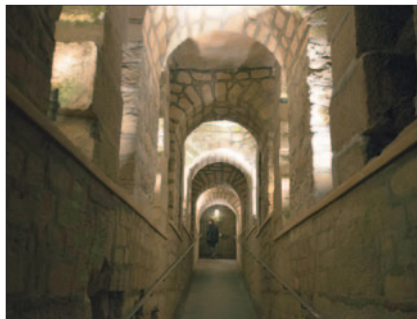
Top: Skulls and bones are stacked at the Catacombs in Paris, France. Below: A woman walks by the Catacombs.

of Paris — the Cemetery of Innocents — was closed for public health reasons. From 1809 on, the catacombs were rearranged into organized galleries, with piled bones forming walls and pillars, and even some artistic shapes made of femurs and skulls.

Sacred and profane maxims and poems are posted around the galleries, such as: "Think in the morning that perhaps you won't survive until evening, and in the evening that perhaps you won't survive until morning."

Valerie Guillaume, director of the Catacombs, stressed the philosophical nature of the unusual tourist site.

"The place was not conceived to be a horror place, but as a reflection on the meaning of life and death," she said.



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FAITH



Faith in architecture

No stained glass or gargoyles, just Mies' minimalist 'God Box' chapel restored

By BLAIR KAMIN
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — If you like your chapels with stained glass and gargoyles, then stay away from the "God Box."

That's the nickname of master modernist Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's only religious building. Its official name: the Robert F. Carr Memorial Chapel of St. Saviour at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The early 1950s chapel is classic Mies: a simple box of brick, steel, concrete and glass, stripped of decoration and seemingly disconnected from history. Which is why postmodernists, enamored of ornament and historical references, hated it. In the 1980s, which was postmodernism's high tide and Mies' low ebb, the oft-heard crack was that, at IIT, the chapel looked like a factory.

Sitting in the chapel, one realizes how misguided that critique is. The chapel's high-ceilinged interior skillfully nestles the visitor between the spiritual and natural — one represented by a stainless steel cross, the other by a lovely tree visible through enormous windows. The absence

of decoration all but forces you to contemplate and turn inward. You can lose yourself in a Gothic cathedral's soaring grandeur. But this modestly scaled room, as Mies so precisely put it, gives the visitor "the hope of finding oneself."

Kudos, then, to the Mies van der Rohe Society for raising more than \$1 million to restore the God Box. The society, which seeks to preserve Mies' buildings on the IIT campus he did so much to shape, joined with university leaders recently to rededicate the 62-year-old chapel after a meticulous restoration. The project restored not just brick and mortar, but a piece of living architectural history.

Religious groups use the chapel near 32nd Street and Michigan Avenue for services, meetings and social gatherings. It hosts weddings too. There are no fixed pews. Chairs can be arranged every which way. Drapes behind the altar can part in the middle, allowing them to be moved slightly forward and cover the prominently displayed cross. Such flexibility is as much a part of the Miesian method as the honest expression of structure.

Mies, who died in 1969, designed great buildings, among them New York's

"It's so typical Mies — stripped of all the religious decoration. [That] allows you to concentrate, meditate and focus."

Dirk Lohan
Chicago architect and grandson
of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Seagram Building and the Farnsworth House in far southwest suburban Plano. At the chapel, he made more with less — a tight budget from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, which sponsored the nondenominational chapel. The chapel's namesake, Robert F. Carr, president of Dearborn Chemical and a leader in Episcopal church fundraising, died in 1945.

Led by T. Gunny Harboe, of Chicago's Harboe Architects, the restoration replaced a leaking roof and hundreds of cracked exterior bricks, redid mortar joints, repaired corroded steel frames, refinished the terrazzo floor, cleaned and

repaired interior brick, and refinished wood doors and benches. Graffiti and cluttering shrubs were removed, as were almost all of the water stains. The key is that the project simultaneously attended to form and function.

The successful restoration raises the question: Is the God Box a model for other religious buildings or a piece of the Mies canon that architects should admire but not emulate? It really all depends on the designer.

Some react against the chapel's minimalism, as did Chicago architect Laurence Booth in the renovated Old St. Patrick's Church, a Celtic wonderland of stenciling and stained glass. Others draw inspiration from Mies' reductive spirit, as did architect Tadao Ando in his Church of the Light near Osaka, Japan. Its signature element is a cross-shaped void cut into its concrete wall. For Ando and Mies, religious architecture is not defined by ornament's presence but by its absence.

"It's so typical Mies — stripped of all the religious decoration," his grandson, Chicago architect Dirk Lohan, said before the rededication. That "allows you to concentrate, meditate and focus."



PHOTOS BY JOSE M. OSORIO, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

The Mies van der Rohe Society raised more than \$1 million to restore the Robert F. Carr Memorial Chapel of St. Saviour at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Golf cart plows into students, injuring 2

CA FRESNO — Police in California said two students suffered serious injuries when a special-needs student got into a golf cart at a local middle school and took off, plowing into a group of teenagers.

The 13-year-old student ran into the youths Monday at Granite Ridge Intermediate in Fresno before hitting a tree.

He and nine other students were taken to the hospital, but only two of the injuries were considered serious.

Police said the golf cart didn't require a key to work.

Dream beach house built on wrong lot

FL HAMMOCK DUNES — A dream beach house in Florida has turned into a nightmare for a Missouri couple.

Six months after the custom house was built along the Atlantic Ocean near Palm Coast, Mark and Brenda Voss learned it's on the wrong lot in the gated Ocean Hammock community.

Mark Voss told the Daytona Beach News Journal they're in "total disbelief." The couple own 18 other residential lots in the community. They bought the lot in question in 2012 and hired Keystone Homes to build a three-story, 5,000-square-foot vacation rental. But it was instead built on the lot next door, which is owned by a North Carolina couple.

Changing city official's seat to cost nearly \$7K

TX EL PASO — It will cost El Paso nearly \$7,000 to change the seats for a city council member.

City Councilwoman Ann Morgan Lilly said she no longer wants to sit next to council member Lily Limon, because Limon's under-the-breath comments during the meetings distract her. Lilly said another councilwoman, Cortney Niland, also requested to change seats because of Limon.

City spokeswoman Juli Lozano told the El Paso Times the money for a new computer and desk reconfiguration for Lilly will come from the Public Educational and Governmental budget.

Wheelchair marking traffic death stolen

RI NEWPORT — An empty wheelchair near a Newport intersection as a memorial to a man killed at the site in January has been stolen.

The Newport Daily News reported that Annette Bourbonnais, an advocate for disabled people, said the intersection is dangerous and the wheelchair reminds passers-by of the death of Robert Silva, 57, who was in the wheelchair when he was struck by a pickup truck in the crosswalk.

Teacher cleared of exposure charge

MI HASTINGS — A jury has acquitted Hastings elementary school teacher



CHRIS PEDOTA, THE (WOODLAND PARK, N.J.) RECORD/AP

When work makes you scream

Da' Von Willis, of Paterson, N.J., loads trash while wearing a "Scream" mask he found on a garbage can in Wayne, N.J., on Tuesday.

THE CENSUS

6'4"

The height of Blossom, the world's tallest cow, according to a recent Guinness World Records designation. Patty Hanson, right, of Orangeville, Ill., sought the record after veterinarians and the cow's foot trimmer constantly noted the 2,000-pound animal's large size. Hanson got Blossom when she was a calf and eventually decided to keep her as a pet. She turned 13 in July. "Blossom is a bit like an overgrown dog," Hanson said. "To people who have cows, they will get what I am saying, but I want other people to know she is special. I told my dad years ago that Blossom was destined for stardom, and with this record she has achieved that."



of an indecent exposure charge after he testified that he urinated in his backyard but didn't expose himself to a neighbor.

The Grand Rapids Press reported Stephen Merring, 55, was cleared of the charge Monday after a trial that lasted a few hours. The Southeastern Elementary physical education teacher has been on paid leave since his arrest in April.

Merring testified that he didn't think anyone could see him when he stepped out of his basement to urinate.

Attorney Fil Iorio said his client is "extremely relieved" to be cleared and wants to return to work.

Grapes, juice close highway after crash

PA SMITHTON — An eastbound lane of Interstate 70 reopened about six hours after a tractor-trailer crashed, spilling grapes and sticky juice onto the highway in southwestern Pennsylvania.

State police said the incident happened about 2:40 a.m. Tuesday and the lane reopened about 8:30 a.m.

Police said the tractor trailer driven by Chad Mathers, 48, of Jefferson City, Mo., clipped another truck whose driver was sleeping and had parked his car hauler off the side of the road. The fruit-hauling truck then headed up a small embankment and tipped over, spilling its load.

Police said Mathers will be cited for not staying in his lane.

Infant trapped under dead dog recovering

LA PLEASANT HILL — A 10-month-old girl trapped underneath the decomposing body of her father for as many as three days has been released from a Shreveport hospital, a deputy coroner said.

The baby was dehydrated and suffering from blistering skin when she was found last week wedged against the wall and

under the body of her father, Jason Fields, 43, said Sabine Parish Deputy Coroner Ron Rivers.

"It looked like he was sitting on the side of the bed on his computer, fell backward and died," Rivers said. "The fact that he fell on her and made no attempt to get up tells me he died instantly when he fell on top of her."

Officer placed on leave over popcorn theft

OH TOLEDO — A police officer in Toledo has been placed on unpaid suspension after he pleaded no contest to making off with caramel popcorn from a convenience store.

Authorities said the officer was on duty and in uniform on two occasions when he took caramel popcorn from the Oregon Circle K.

Sgt. Richard Whitman, 52, pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor theft charge Thursday. He was fined and placed on probation. He also paid back \$3 for the popcorn.

Report shows jump in pest complaints

NY NEW YORK — An audit by the city comptroller's office shows the number of pest complaints including rat problems jumped by more than 2,000.

The report said the number of complaints to the city's 311 hotline and online went from 22,300 in fiscal year 2012 to 24,586 the next year.

According to the Daily News of New York, Comptroller Scott Stringer said health inspectors didn't follow through on protocols to combat the problem. In 160 cases, no field inspection was conducted.

Stringer says the health department isn't managing the problem effectively.

A health department spokesman said the agency "strongly disagrees" with the audit, and that the agency takes a proactive response to exterminating rats in the city.

From wire reports

WEEKEND



Florida Georgia Line
content with criticism

Page 37



Revenge fantasy

Nemesis System in 'Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor' takes getting even with your enemies to new heights

Video games, Page 26

On the waterfront

Portsmouth Dockyard
a maritime treasure

Europe travel, Page 28



Buried history

Japanese bunker
a grim reminder of
Battle of Okinawa

Pacific travel, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Brad Pitt as Sgt. Don "Wardaddy" Collier in "Fury." Before the World War II tank drama reaches theaters this month, "World of Tanks" players can steer a virtual rendition of the tank Pitt commands in the film. The collaboration works to hype both movie and game.

'World of Tanks' game finds ally in upcoming 'Fury' film

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

"Fury" is rolling into "World of Tanks." Before the World War II tank drama reaches theaters this month, video gamers can make like Brad Pitt's character, Sgt. Don "Wardaddy" Collier, and steer a virtual rendition of the tank he commands in the film. It's the latest example of a likeminded movie and game aligning to hype each other, and it marks the first Hollywood pact for the popular online tank battle game.

"It made sense," said Victor Kislyi, CEO of "World of Tanks" developer Wargaming. "Both audiences are interested in historical accuracy, so why don't we do something together?"

The movie, set in 1945, follows a five-man crew as they carry out brutal missions behind enemy lines during the final days of the war. Beginning this week, "World of Tanks Blitz" players can purchase a "Fury"-themed bundle for \$15 that adds the film's M4A3E8 Sherman tank — right down to the name Fury scrawled on the gun — to the mobile version of the game.

The nimble war machine, as well as a crew member resembling Pitt's "Wardaddy" and "Fury"-themed missions inspired by the film's battles between German and American forces, will also be deployed to the PC and Xbox 360 editions of "World of Tanks" for \$30. While the game is free to play, upgraded tanks and resources cost extra for wannabe tankers.



"World of Tanks" players can now choose to play as "Wardaddy," Pitt's character from "Fury."

The game, originally released in Russia in 2010, currently features about 100 million registered players around the world battling each other in 500 different types of tanks representing various nations. ("World of Tanks" boasts the Guinness World Record for the most players simultaneously on one server: 190,541 on a Russian server in 2013.)

Sony Pictures approached Wargaming about the "Fury" collaboration after filmmakers recruited some of the same tank experts that the Cyprus-based game studio enlists to ensure accuracy in "World of Tanks." "Fury" director David Ayers was on hand at Wargaming's Electronic Entertainment Expo booth this summer to preview footage from the movie.

ON THE COVER: Vengeance is sweet for a ranger named Talon in "Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor."

Warner Bros. photo

GADGET WATCH

Headphones offer powerful sound

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Blue is a company many, including myself, know for its outstanding recording microphone devices. Now they have launched the Mo-Fi headphones to listen to your recordings or any other audio.

I'd say with the launch of the Mo-Fi, Blue Microphones can call themselves a well-rounded audio company, after I heard the incredible sound pumped into my ears.

The over-the-head high-fidelity wired headphones include a 240 mW amplifier, 50mm dynamic drivers and a long-life, rechargeable (micro-USB), 1020mAh polymer lithium-ion battery to power them for up to 14 hours. A cool feature shuts off the headphones once they are taken off.

According to Blue, the built-in audiophile amplifier offers six times more power than typical mobile devices, which explains why the sound is so powerful. The amp has a great feature with three settings: On, On+ and Off.

They describe the settings this way: When switched to On, Mo-Fi activates the amp to deliver powerful, detailed sound. On+ engages the amp's analog low-frequency enhancement circuit to deliver incredibly deep and smooth bass. Off puts Mo-Fi in passive mode, for connecting to a home AV receiver that may already have high-output amplification for headphones.

The Mo-Fis have an almost retro-looking multi-jointed headband and ear cups, which are as comfortable as any. They are constructed with high-quality aluminum and high-strength plastic components, which all contribute to the attractive design.

The headband can be adjusted to fit most any head size or shape, all while the ear cups stay in place. A pivoting arm and a headband adjustment knob make

it simple to make changes.

While they aren't advertised as noise canceling, I don't think it matters. I wore them on a recent cross-country flight and with the clarity being so good and the volume cranked up, I don't think having that feature would add anything.

Included with the Apple-certified headphones are a carrying pouch, gold plated cables and a USB wall outlet charger.

Online: moifiheadphones.com; \$349.99



Toddy has the solution to keep new smartphones, tablets and all our other touch-screen devices clean.

The 5-by-7-inch Toddy cloth is a simple solution for any screen, and it stores in a pocket for on-the-go help.

My favorite is the Toddy wedge (\$14.99), built like a wedge. You can easily grab it and use the microfiber cleaning side for polishing. What makes it unique is it acts as a nice hands-free stand for desks.

Both the wedge and cloths are available in a variety of colors and patterns and can be customized with a logo or photo.

Online: toddygear.com; cloth \$9.99 each, or \$19.99 for a pack of three

The Kero Nomad cable is one of the smallest, but one of the most important accessories you should carry.

Kero calls the 3-inch portable lightning to USB cable the world's first key ring cable that charges and syncs mobile devices. It's made with flexible rubber so it can withstand wear and tear and has interlocking caps to ensure the safety of the charging tips.

All I can add is it's incredibly handy to always have a charging cable on hand.

The lightning tip (\$24.99) is compatible with all the Apple lightning products, including iPhone, iPad and iPod touch and the Nano.

A micro USB cable (\$14.99) is also available.

Online: keroproductions.com

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Oct. 15:

1. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
2. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
3. "Gonna Know We Were Here," Jason Alden
4. "Bang Bang," Jessie J., Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
5. "Sun Daze," Florida Georgia Line
6. "Here We Go," Alex & Sierra
7. "Rather Be (featuring Jess Glynne)," Clean Bandit
8. "Burnin' It Down," Jason Alden
9. "Habits (Stay High)," Tove Lo
10. "Chandelier," Sia

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks from Oct. 6-12:

1. Taylor Swift, "Shake It Off"
2. Meghan Trainor, "All About That Bass"
3. Maroon 5, "Animals"
4. EchoSmith, "Cool Kids"
5. Jessie J., "Bang Bang"
6. Calvin Harris, "Blame"
7. Sam Smith, "Stay With Me"
8. Ariana Grande, "Break Free"
9. Sia, "Chandelier"
10. Iggy Azalea, "Black Widow"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Oct. 15:

1. "Transformers: Age of Extinction"
2. "Godzilla (2014)"
3. "The Fault in Our Stars"
4. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"
5. "Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow"
6. "Fed Up (2014)"
7. "Chef"
8. "The Lunchbox"
9. "Blended (2014)"
10. "Draft Day"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer rank the top 10 handheld games for October:

1. "Super Smash Bros.," 3DS
2. "Velocity 2X," Vita
3. "Theatrhythm Final Fantasy Curtain Call," Vita
4. "Azure Striker Gunvolt," 3DS
5. "Danganronpa 2: Goodbye Despair," Vita
6. "Professor Layton vs. Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney," 3DS
7. "The Swapper," Vita
8. "Rogue Legacy," Vita
9. "The Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 5: No Going Back," Vita
10. "Metroid," Vita

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Oct. 15:

ANDROID

1. Goal Simulator
2. Audible Icon Pack
3. DRAGON QUEST II
4. Tower Dwellers
5. Entwined Challenge

Top 5 paid apps for Oct. 15:

APPLE

1. Five Nights at Freddy's
2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
3. Gelin Sword
4. Sleep Cycle alarm clock
5. Afterlight

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1 Tune in to AFN's all-you-can-watch Halloween — if you dare

Actually, it's not all scary. It is, however, all Halloween. All month. You can find hilarious, horrific and hair-raising entertainment for the whole family. While there's lots of spooky stuff, there is family fare, too. And no Halloween season would be complete without a B-movie marathon. "Big Ass Spider," anyone?

- Get the complete schedule at myafn.net.



2

Florida Georgia Line returns

How do you follow the most popular digital country single of all time? For country duo FGL, you do it by continuing to push the sonic envelope. Their sophomore release, "Anything Goes," is available now.

- Review on Page 37.



3

Sample some new street artists

Sure, everybody knows Banksy by now. But there are a bevy of urban artists who could just as well be on your radar. Paste magazine is featuring five on its website, with links for you to dig a little deeper.

- <http://tinyurl.com/lfigarej>

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Luke Evans sinks teeth into new 'Dracula' role

By GINA MCINTYRE
Los Angeles Times

Welsh actor Luke Evans has a penchant for larger-than-life characters. He's twice played Greek gods—Apollo in "Clash of the Titans," Zeus in "Immortals"—and he's portrayed literary icons—Aramis in the most recent big-screen adaptation of "The Three Musketeers," and the brave human Bard the Bowman in the second and upcoming "Hobbit" movies.

For his first real leading-man turn in a Hollywood epic, he's revisiting legends and literature in a new way, tackling his biggest character yet. In "Dracula Untold," he plays Vlad Tepes, the fearsome Eastern European warrior known for impaling his enemies.

The character famously served as a key inspiration for Bram Stoker's aristocratic vampire, but the big-budget Universal

Lugosi, Christopher Lee and Gary Oldman who are most associated with the immortal caped fiend. (Evans cites a particular fondness for Oldman's performance in Francis Ford Coppola's 1992 telling.)

For his Dracula, Evans was pleased to deviate from the usual script and dive into historical research about Vlad Tepes, and he was excited to bring more personality to a legendary figure remembered almost exclusively for sadism on the battlefield.

"There's lots of contrasting stories about how dark he was, how vicious he was, how bloodthirsty he was," Evans said. "But then in the same breath, you hear about how great a leader he was and how loved by his people he was and respected by his enemies he was. Even on his tombstone in Romania, it says he was respected by his enemies. ...

"When you take those things into account, you think, 'Well, as much as he's remembered for impaling thousands of

not only on grandiose palace sets but also in such startling natural locations as Giant's Causeway, a series of dramatic cliffs on the northeast coast of Northern Ireland.

"When they say, 'Action!' I'm in 1483, and I love that idea—it's like time travel for 10 minutes," Evans said. "You can't draw on anything that you have in your normal life. You can be on top of a mountain and kill 15 Turks and then jump on the back of a horse and gallop down a highway. That's what I did a couple of weeks ago."

'We're almost turning the monster on its head in a way and allowing people to see Dracula in a different light. When you think of the word 'Dracula,' you think of this pale-faced, fanged man floating through an ancient house on top of a mountain. We are trying to slightly pull away from that and give it that punch of reality.'

Pictures film transports Dracula from Victorian England to the 15th century and sets out to present a more complex portrait of the bloodthirsty prince.

"We're almost turning the monster on its head in a way and allowing people to see Dracula in a different light," Evans said on the Belfast set of the film last year. "When you think of the word 'Dracula,' you think of this pale-faced, fanged man floating through an ancient house on top of a mountain. We are trying to slightly pull away from that and give it that punch of reality."

Directed by first-time feature filmmaker Gary Shore and written by Matt Sazama and Burk Sharpless, "Dracula Untold" opens in 1462 Transylvania: Prince Vlad is a respected ruler, a doting husband and father to a young son. But the peace is threatened when the neighboring Turks, led by the sultan Mehmed (Dominic Cooper), demand that Vlad surrender 1,000 boys to serve in their army.

After the Turks reject Vlad's offer to fight in the place of the inexperienced children, he travels to Broken Tooth Mountain, a haunted site shrouded in red mist. What he encounters there robs him of his humanity, and he is forced to wrestle with new, dark urges while simultaneously protecting his people using surprising and unexpected powers.

"He has to keep it to himself for a majority of the film that he's battling this awful sort of addiction, but he knows this addiction comes with a positive side—which is this power and strength that he's able to [use to combat] the Turks' invasion of his country," Evans said.

Dracula, as a character, has captivated filmmakers since the dawn of cinema. Stoker's book was first adapted by F.W. Murnau in 1922 as "Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens," and roughly two dozen movie actors have interpreted the role in various productions, though it's typically Bela

people on poles in a field, there was much more to the man."

His studious approach was born out of his work in the theater. Evans, 35, began acting professionally on the London stage and had worked successfully for about a decade before landing his first studio feature, the remake of "Clash of the Titans," which, in turn, led to other outsized parts in subsequent Hollywood productions.

Director Peter Jackson said he cast Evans in "The Hobbit" films based not only on his previous performances but also in part on his winning personality: He described Evans as the kind of guy you could grab a drink with at a pub.

"No one else would step in and play Bard the way Luke has, which is terrific when an actor really owns a role like that," Jackson said, speaking by phone from New Zealand.

"He's a dream actor to work with," added Shore. "He's the most committed person I've ever worked with. He's a brilliant team player, and he's been a great comrade to me. He's someone who can always collaborate."

Although he never set out to forge a career based on action-packed blockbusters, Evans said he's comfortable with the path he's found himself traveling (though he did recently wrap Ben Wheatley's indie thriller "High-Rise," due out next year). It seems fantastic cinema affords far more unusual opportunities than kitchen-sink dramas ever could.

With "Dracula Untold," for example, Evans shot transporting scenes



Luke Evans

ANDY KROPA, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Better left 'Untold'

Origin story steals from too many sources in its attempt to revive Bram Stoker's 'Dracula'

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

The Washington Post

For a tantalizing half hour or so, it actually seemed like the underlying idea of "Dracula Untold" — an origin story drawing its DNA from superhero flicks, not monster movies — might go somewhere. Unfortunately, in its search for fresh blood to rejuvenate the desiccated corpse of Bram Stoker's hero, long since drained of narrative power, it goes places it shouldn't.

The film's problems aren't limited to liberal cagging from comic books. In fact, that's precisely what's best about the film, which occasionally boasts some gorgeous visuals. But the movie doesn't know when to stop stealing. Its Prince Vlad — played by Luke Evans as an honorable 15th-century Balkan crimefighter who acquires superhuman abilities, and a thirst for blood, after an encounter with a ghoul in a cave — evokes, at various times, Spider-Man, Superman, the Hulk and other freaks, as he adjusts to his gifts, and the attendant curse. "Sometimes what the world needs is no longer a hero," says Vlad (Evans), as he prepares to battle the evil Turks who have invaded his homeland. "Sometimes what it needs is a monster."

That's not a bad line, courtesy of writers Matt Szatam and Burk Sharpless. But the film doesn't restrict its borrowing to a single genre. It also owes a heavy stylistic debt, both visually and thematically, to "300," "Twilight" and "Game of Thrones." (Two of its actors, Charles Dance and Art Parkinson, have recurring roles on that television show.)

But there are other, even more incongruous touches, especially among the movie's villains. One Turkish soldier with beautiful blond braids looks like a cross between Charlie Hunnam from "Sons of Anarchy" and the bassist from a Swedish metal band. And the marauders' leader, played by Dominic Cooper with an indeterminate, globetrotting accent, sports what my screening companion Jenny called a "boy-band" fade. Then there's the word "OK," which gets uttered, by various characters, not once, but three times.

In 15th-century Romania. Okaay.

Deeper questions of logic arise from the film's handling of established vampire lore. Although the film's bloodsuckers prove sensitive to silver, daylight and crucifixes, it isn't clear exactly what effect the metal has on Vlad, other than as a case of low-grade kryptonite. Sure, it appears to weaken him, but not terribly. And where does his ability come from to control both weather and bats, the latter of which make up the film's silliest special effect? At one point, our hero summons a 50,000-ton bat cloud from the sky, pummeling a phalanx of Turks like a giant, flying fist made of flapping wings.

That said, the film isn't awful. There are moments of handsome cinematography and occasional effects that both frighten and impress.

The takeaway: We might have to get used to the newfangled bloodsucker-with-a-heart-of-gold, who only takes on the name Dracula near the end of the film, which concludes with a groaningly obvious sequel set-up. Universal Pictures, which made the movie, recently announced plans to reboot its entire back catalogue of classic monster movies. Get ready for "Creature From the Black Lagoon Untold."

"Dracula Untold" is rated PG-13 for violence, scary sequences and brief sensuality. Running time: 92 minutes.

New on base

"Dracula Untold" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ainsbach, Baumholder, Grafenwörth, Hofenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Aviano and Vicenza.

Pacific

Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Benny Decker, Yokota, Zama, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Okinawa, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab and Courtney.

Online: draculauntold.com



WARNER BROS. PICTURE/MCT

A doll is possessed by a murderous cultist in "Annabelle."

Makers of horror films eye another comeback

By CECILIA KANG
The Washington Post

Hollywood's new "It Girl" is a creepy vintage doll named Annabelle whose eyes drip with the blood of her victims and she's bringing hope for the revival of horror films.

"Annabelle" blew up box-office expectations with \$37 million in its opening weekend Oct. 3. It's one of the biggest openings of a horror film ever and the first of that category to draw such a crowd in years.

But what gets Hollywood most excited about its early success is the money that can be made off "Annabelle" and its copycats, which are cheap to produce and have huge profit margins compared with more costly action, comedy or drama hits.

"Annabelle" cost less than \$7 million to make, compared with the \$60 million spent on "Gone Girl." That means the opening three days of "Annabelle" generated a 400 percent profit margin, while "Gone Girl" was still in the red. The most profitable film in history is the 2009 horror movie "Paranormal Activity," which was made on a budget of \$15,000 and reaped \$193 million in global ticket sales.

The past few years have been tough for the horror genre, as studios have struggled to find another lucrative sequel that can generate breakout hit that can generate lucrative sequels ("Paranormal" had four). No horror film out this year made more than \$20 million in its opening weekend. Lionsgate bet big on the \$65 million "I, Frankenstein," for example, but total U.S. ticket sales were only \$20 million.

But like any good zombie, horror keeps coming back.

"As a genre, it's never completely dead because people always want to be scared," said Phil Contrino, an movie analyst at research firm Boxoffice.com. "But it takes one movie that hits the right way, and where grosses are high, to get everyone in the movie business feeling good about the genre again."

"Annabelle," a New Line Cinema prequel to the 2013 movie "The Conjuring," may have hit that chord with its return to traditional spook and gore. It received lackluster reviews from critics,

doesn't boast A-list stars and will probably be overlooked by awards panels.

But Warner Bros. is already planning a sequel to "Annabelle" along with a sequel to "The Conjuring."

Cheap but lucrative offerings like "Annabelle" can help the studios fund more expensive, award-winning productions. That's important in an increasingly risk-averse industry that likes to bet on huge franchises like Disney's "Frozen" and 20th Century Fox's "X-Men" series. To ensure a movie will do well in global ticket sales, produce sequels and sell T-shirts and theme park rides, studios are focused on what they call "tent poles" that can support a whole mini economy.

"All ego goes into the door when you greenlight a movie like 'Annabelle,'" said Jeff Bock, a senior box office analyst at research firm Exhibitor Relations. "Even if it failed at the box office, it would probably still make a little money. Sure it's not a film from director Steven Spielberg, but that would cost at least \$60 million to make. So that's the balance that every studio has to watch."



JASIN BOLAND, UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Luke Evans stars in "Dracula Untold," the origin story of the man who became Dracula.

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

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Dracula Untold(R)-

Thur 16:00, 17:30, Fri 15:45, 17:30, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 17:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 17:15, Mon - Wed 16:00, 17:30

Gone Girl (R)-

Thur 17:45, Fri 17:30, Sat 5 & Sun 14:00, 17:15, Mon - Wed 17:45

Guardians of the Galaxy (PG13)- Sat & Sun 13:30

The Equalizer (PG13)-

Thur 17:45, 20:30, Fri 17:45, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 17:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 17:45, 20:00, Mon 20:30, Tue & Wed 18:00, 20:30

The Giver (PG13)- Sat 13:30

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WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

In 'Shadow of Mordor,' revenge is sweet



Nemesis System makes action-packed RPG a can't-miss title

By MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

If imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, then Monolith Entertainment has just written one heck of a love letter to Rocksteady in the form of "Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor."

The similarities between "Mordor" and Rocksteady's groundbreaking "Batman: Arkham" series are a bit too close to be easily ignored. If not for the fact that both were published under Warner Bros. games development arm, it wouldn't be wholly incorrect to say the base gameplay is nearly identical. Combat in both is a matter of single, well-timed button presses. Stealth is a key element in both. Not even "Arkham's"

one at a time is still a great gameplay mechanic.

Those components alone would have made "Mordor" just another OK game, to sit among the pile of "Lord of the Rings" games that have been decent, but never outstanding.

Luckily, "Mordor" offers a hook that I've never seen in a video game before and it elevates what could have been a mediocre experience into something that has to be played to be believed. In "Mordor," you play as a ranger by the name of Talion who watches his family get killed in front of him before he himself is executed. He is then brought back to life, bonded to a mysterious Elvish wraith who joins Talion on his mission of revenge.

In order to exact that revenge, Talion must cut his way through the hordes that have overrun his former home. That's where Monolith's Nemesis System comes in.

The location of Talion's ultimate target is unknown to him and all but the highest-level war chiefs that each command a legion of Orcish grunts. To get to the war chiefs, Talion must defeat and then interrogate the lower-level foot soldiers, and they don't give up their secrets easily. Each kill gets him a little closer to his target. But there is a catch.

Sauron's chain of command is a finicky one. When Talion kills a lower-level grunt, another Orc will jump in to fill the gap. When you kill a mid-level boss, one of the lower-level Orcs will be promoted and will grow in power. In some instances, these enemies will escape, only to reappear later with scars and battle wounds. They'll even mention earlier meetings when you fight them again.

The Nemesis System also moves time

forward when Talion dies — a temporary ailment for an undead wraith. The Orc that delivered the final blow will grow in status and taunts Talion with his defeat the next time they face off.

As you kill your way through the ranks, the location of the powerful war chiefs becomes clearer. Those bosses are accompanied by bodyguards — unless of course, you take them out first. With a bit of planning, the big boss battles become a little easier, without taking out the bodyguards ahead of time, they become nearly impossible.

It's an extremely interesting game-play mechanic that works wonders in making the world of "Mordor" seem to exist free of player interaction. If nothing else, it adds a gameplay reason for the wanton slaughter that accompanies action games of this type.

"Shadows of Mordor" is a game that copies quite a bit from other series — albeit well — and the story is generic revenge fantasy stuff, but the Nemesis Sys-

Overall grade: **A**

tem makes this a can't-miss title.

I'd recommend this game to anybody who enjoyed the "Arkham" games, or who is just looking to experience something they never have in gaming before.

Bottom line: A "Shadows of Mordor" is a must-buy.

Platforms: PlayStation 3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, PC (reviewed)

Online: shadowofmordor.com

"Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor" centers on Talion, a valiant ranger whose family is slain moments before his own life is taken. Resurrected by a spirit of vengeance, Talion vows to destroy those who have wronged him.

Warner Bros.



detective mode is safe, as "Mordor" copies it almost exactly. Nearly everything in "Mordor" feels familiar, and it doesn't help matters that another key element — climbing towers to survey the landscape and unlock missions — is taken straight from the Ubisoft game design playbook.

At the very least, Monolith chose good students to crib from, as all of the elements they borrowed do work exceptionally well. Fighting off hordes of enemies with counters, flips and dodges is just as exhilarating here as in "Arkham Asylum," and jumping from ledges to take out foes

Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Tivoli Gardens

Danes have embraced the American Halloween tradition so enthusiastically that Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens is extending the spooky season an extra week to last through northern Europe's school holidays.

TREAT YOURSELF: Extended Halloween at Tivoli Gardens

Halloween is not a traditional holiday in Denmark, but Danes know it from American movies and television. They have embraced the spooky foreign festival so enthusiastically that it has become the busiest season for Copenhagen's famed historic amusement park, Tivoli Gardens.

As an extra treat this year, Tivoli will extend the season an extra week, to Nov. 2, to coincide with northern Europe's school holidays.

Halloween decorations at the park include 20,000 real pumpkins, autumn flowers and harvest paraphernalia in tableaux throughout the gardens. Tivoli's restaurants and shops offer hot soups, pancakes, warm beverages and an abundance of trinkets and gift items. Rides either dare visitors to test their courage or invite them to settle down to some old-time fun. Witches and other characters will happily pose for photos, chat with guests and perform shows throughout the day. At night Tivoli turns scarier, as the Haunted House opens and the Zombie Dance Show begins.

Oct. 25 is Monsters' Night Out (visitors dress up) and on the holiday itself there will be a Halloween celebration.

Find information in English at tivoli.dk/en/program/halloween.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Munich museums night

Its biggest bash of the year has come and gone, but the Bavarian capital has yet more fun in store for visitors on Saturday night as The Long Night of Munich Museums brings enlightenment and entertainment to those seeking nightlife with a cultural flair.

About 90 museums, galleries, churches, foundations and other venues will keep the lights on late to offer guests glimpses of their treasure troves. Guided tours, lectures, concerts and interactive installations figure into the night's activities.

Venues to check out could include the Museum Brandhorst with its works by Cy Twombly and Andy Warhol, the Municipal Galleries at the Lenbachhaus or the German Museum, where a dark mine shaft or the stars of the night sky can be experienced. The Rolling Museum features classic autos and film icons, including Herbie the Beetle and K.I.T.T. from the "Knight Rider" television series. Free shuttle buses run between the venues at regular intervals.

A Long Night Ticket costs 15 euros (about \$19) and includes use of the Munich transport system from noon on Saturday until 8 a.m. Sunday. Ages 4-14 may accompany a paying adult free of charge. Included in the cost is a children's program from 2 to



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

6 p.m. Participation in this part of the program only costs 2.50 euros for adults and children alike. Tickets can be picked up on the night at the large tent on the Odeonsplatz or at the participating venues.

Learn more at muenchner.de.

Late-night in Stuttgart

Late bedtimes are in store for visitors to Stuttgart on Saturday evening as well, when Stuttgartnacht will see over 70 clubs, cinemas, churches, theaters, public buildings and other venues present hundreds of activities for curious night owls.

A night out could consist of singing along with a gospel choir at the Heilandskirche, learning some basic dance steps at the Salsa Factory or watching a physicist's experiments at the

Kosmos Verlag. Many venues offer live music, from hard rock to *chanson*.

Events kick off at 7 p.m. and wind down at midnight, although some spots remain open until 2 a.m. Sunday.

Adult tickets bought on the spot cost 17 euros (about \$21.60), include use of four shuttle routes and are available at participating venues. Children under 12 enter free.

Plan the night out at stuttgartnacht.de.

Jenever Festival

Those who have been in Europe for a while might have attended a beer or wine fest or two. Something to which far fewer people have bragging rights is having fêted the beverage known as Jenever. A visit to the Jenever Festival in Hasselt, Belgium, over the weekend can remedy that.

Jenever, a juniper-flavored spirit created by the marriage of neutral alcohol and a malt wine mash, was the precursor to gin. As a Protected Product of Origin, like Champagne or Parmesan cheese, the real deal can only be produced in Belgium, the Netherlands and just a few areas within France and Germany. Jenever is bottled in handcrafted clay jugs.

The recently renovated Jenever museum, housed in a former



Courtesy of Stuttgartnacht.de

At Stuttgart Nacht, a group gathers for a literary talk in front of the New Palace in Stuttgart's Schlossplatz, or central square.

distillery, serves as the backdrop to many of the festival's events.

On Saturday, members of the Hasselt Jenever brotherhood enthrone their newest members at the town hall and head to the museum for the presentation of this year's batch of Jenever. Next stop is the Borrelmanneke, an abstract statue of a man on an ox. From the barrel upon his shoulder, not water but the venerated spirit will flow, and all present are invited to partake.

On Sunday at 3 p.m., servers take part in a waiters' race

through the city center. The winner receives his weight in Jenever. On both days, the Fruitmarkt and Grote Markt are the sites of tents hosting Jenever bars. Entertainment will take the form of various bands, dance companies, street theater acts, cooking demonstrations, cabaret and more. The town's restaurants, butchers and bakers will serve specialties incorporating the town's spirit.

Learn more about the program by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/pu2m9q>.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



PHOTOS BY ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

The HMS Victory sits in dry dock at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard in England. The ship is one of several exhibits at the dockyard.

Stories from the deep

Portsmouth Dockyard is awash in maritime history

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

Long rows of ancient wood stretched away from the glass wall of the elevator, proof that history, like life, takes effort.

Much of the wood is gone, dissolved by the Mary Rose's more than 400 years at the bottom of the English Channel, but the work of experts has preserved a surprising amount of the ship's form. Decks are still visible, held by beams that would have formed the ceiling for lower decks. The wood is still a vibrant brown, tinged and bleached in spots by an artificial white.

Portsmouth, as its name suggests, has long been connected to the sea, and the modern town wants to capitalize on that history to entice tourists. But preserving a history that involves swimming for 400 years in the universal solvent is not easy, as the Mary Rose proves. For 20 years, conservationists sprayed the ship's wood with a preservative similar to wax, which accounts for the splashes of white, to keep it solid after the ship was lifted from its home on the bottom of the English Channel. Now the wood is in the midst of a four-year drying process.

Despite how tedious a more than 20-year preservation process must have been, the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard created compelling and intriguing



A cannon points out from Southsea Castle in Portsmouth, England. The castle originally was constructed by King Henry VIII as part of a massive defense overhaul and was later used as a defensive position for the British during the two world wars.

ing museum displays. The Mary Rose exhibit shows the contents of individual footlockers filled with dice, religious books and other personal items that went down when the ship was sunk in a battle with the French. One man had a series of folding grooming tools, all hinged on one side, and the museum likens it to the modern Swiss Army knife. A wealthy man on the ship lost a pocket sundial, complete with miniature compass.

Perhaps an easier piece of history to preserve is the nearby HMS Victory. Built in the 1700s, the ship saw action at the Battle of Trafalgar, where Napoleon's navy was defeated. Though the ship is obviously maintained — the coats of paint are clearly not from the 1700s — the ship is also deteriorating. It was reported in 2011 that the ship was coming

apart under its own weight in dry dock, despite more than 1.5 million British pounds a year (more than \$2 million) being spent on maintenance.

The maintenance has allowed the ship to stay open to the public, offering an insightful tour of sailing life centuries ago. Plaques on the gun decks describe the recoil of the cannons when they fired, placing about 10 tons of force on the ship. The kitchen, equipped with a massive stove, was manned by an officer since the responsibility of maintaining such a large fire was considered vitally important on a wooden ship. Prisoners on this ship were not housed in cells but cuffed to a bar that was bolted to the floor of the ship. The prisoners were left to stand or sit as best they could.

To give a little bit of context to



The remains of the Mary Rose, which sank in the 1500s near the English coast, have been preserved and are on display at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The ship was commissioned by King Henry VIII and sank in a battle against the French.

the history of the ships, head to the nearby Southsea Castle. The castle overlooks the spot where the Mary Rose sank. The castle has little complexity, consisting of walks along the walls, a tour of a tunnel and a simple keep. The displays offer information about the time of King Henry VIII, who commissioned the Mary Rose and the castle, and broad views of the city's coastline.

mathis.adam@stripes.com
Twitter: @AMathisStripes



The skull of a man identified as a "wealthy officer" sits on display at the museum for the Mary Rose at the Portsmouth dockyard.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The address of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is: Victory Gate, postcode PO1 3LJ. The dockyard has parking nearby.

TIMES

Excluding a few holidays, the dockyard opens every day at 10 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m. November through March and at 6 p.m. during the remaining months.

COSTS

Tickets: If purchased online, 21 British pounds (about \$32) for one adult for access to all exhibits, including the Mary Rose Museum; HMS Warrior; HMS Victory; National Museum of the Royal Navy; action stations, Royal Marines Museum; HMS Alliance; Explosion, The Museum of Naval Firepower; and Royal Marines Museum. The ticket is good for entry for a year. Parking is not included.

FOOD

The dockyard has a coffee shop, tea room and restaurant.

INFORMATION

See historicrockdockyard.co.uk
— Adam L. Mathis



NOVA AMNH/Stars and Stripes

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

A three-item combo plate at Primavera Mexican Restaurant in Kaiserslautern-Einsiedlerhof includes a beef taco, a burrito and an enchilada served with rice and refried beans. The eatery's lunch menu runs from 4.50 euros to 9.90 euros; dinner entrees run about 8 euros.

After Hours: Germany

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

Just about the best compliment a Mexican restaurant in Germany can get is that it hasn't killed anybody.

I can only guess why, but Germans are almost universally, aggressively bad at tacos.

Salsa here tends to be so bland that it leaves the taste buds feeling vacuumed. The words *schärf* and *würzig* ("hot," "well-spiced") on German menus raise expectations only to later crush them under a blob of refried beans and brown guacamole.

No doubt, plenty of readers will disagree with me on this. I used to have a folder of emails from folks who didn't like my

PRIMAVERA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Address: Liebigstrasse 5, Kaiserslautern-Einsiedlerhof
Hours: 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-12 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday
Dress: Casual
Prices: Lunch menu runs from

4.50 euros to 9.90 euros; dinner entrees run about 8 euros; nachos from 5.50 euros to 13 euros; starters from 2.80 euros to 8 euros.

There are a variety of special nights, including fajita and two-for-one beer nights.

More information: English-speaking staff and English menus; accepts dollars and euros. Telephone: (+49) (0)631-75005308; website: primavera-mexican.com; email: primavera-mexican@gmail.com
— Matt Millham

take on one restaurant's interpretation of a burrito.

For some inexplicable reason, no culinary subject seems to polarize American expats so much as Mexican food, a national cuisine in which they theoretically have no personal stake.

There is general agreement, though, that it's hard to find even reasonably good Mexican food in Germany. That's a pretty low bar, but I'm glad to say that Primavera in Einsiedlerhof easily clears it. By that I mean I would eat there again.

There are plenty of reasons for this bold pronouncement. First, it might be the closest thing to an American restaurant outside of a U.S. military base in the Kaiserslautern area.

Without slinging any more insults, let's just say that the American service industry does a lot of things well: free iced-tea refills, wait staff that checks to see if you want refills, and free corn chips and salsa delivered moments after you've been seated, to name just a few. Primavera does these things.

They also have all-you-can-eat ribs on Tuesdays and all-you-can-eat wings on Wednesdays for a shade under 10 euros per person.

Overall, the prices are great. Lunch specials start at 4.50

euros. Piling on four different entrees from the a la carte menu at lunch runs 9.90 euros. That same four-item feast at dinner costs just 11.50.

Primavera's menu is packed with the standards — tacos, fajitas, enchiladas, taquitos and more. For fillings, choose from chicken, shredded or ground beef or chorizo.

Most of its offerings are pretty good. That sounds like weak praise, but it's the same I'd shovel on Kaiserslautern mainstays Spinnräd, Brauhaus am Markt and St. Martins. If you've never had great German food, these places won't disappoint. Even if you have, their food is still enjoyable even if you can't help but pine for better versions of the same thing in Heidelberg, Mainz or Stuttgart.

That's kind of how I feel about Primavera. It's not Carlos Santana, but it covers his greatest hits well enough to keep it from getting bored off stage.

millham.matthew@strips.com
Twitter: @matmillham

Pasta pairs well with vegetables off the grill

By SUSAN SELASKY
Detroit Free Press (MCT)

Grilling vegetables brings out their sweet flavor, making them a good fit in many dishes. This one is filling because each serving has a good amount of vegetables.

GRILLED VEGGIES WITH PENNE PASTA

Ingredients:

1 pound penne pasta
2 pints grape tomatoes
1/3 cup fruity olive oil, divided
2 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 medium (about 6-8 inches) eggplant
2 medium red onions
2 medium zucchini
1 large red pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt-free all-purpose seasoning, such as Mrs. Dash
1 container (7-8 ounces) cherry or pearl-size fresh mozzarella, drained
1/3 cup fresh sliced basil or oregano leaves for garnish

Directions:

Preheat grill to medium-high. When it's hot, oil the grates. As the grill heats, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain, reserving 1 cup pasta water, and keep warm.

Place grape tomatoes on a double piece of foil. Drizzle with about 2 tablespoons olive oil and sprinkle with kosher salt and pepper. Enclose the tomatoes in the foil and place on the grill while you prepare the other vegetables.

Use a serrated knife to cut the eggplant into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Slice the red onion into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Slice the zucchini in half lengthwise. Cut red pepper into eighths. Sizes should be uniform.

Place all the vegetables on a sided baking sheet. Brush both sides of vegetables with the remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil, sprinkle with kosher salt, black pepper and salt-free seasoning.

Place vegetables on the grill and grill about 5 minutes on each side or until tender. They should have grill marks on each side. The grape tomatoes should be juicy.

Remove vegetables from the grill. Cut the eggplant, zucchini and red pepper into 1-inch pieces. Separate the red onion into rings.

In a large serving bowl, toss the hot pasta with the grilled vegetables. Add tomatoes with all the juices and toss to coat. Add the mozzarella and toss again. Serve garnished with basil or oregano.

6 servings, 534 calories each.



The Mexican-themed entrance to Primavera makes the place easy to recognize. Colorful decor continues inside.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



A door painted a cheerful blue leads to the Charles Dickens House in the Bloomsbury section of London. The author and his wife rented the home when he was just becoming famous. It's where he wrote "Oliver Twist" and "Nicholas Nickleby."



A tourist poses with a costumed bobby in front of 221B Baker Street, the fictional home of detective Sherlock Holmes. Although the "home" is nothing more than a re-creation of what author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle imagined, it is wildly popular.



PHOTOS BY ELLEN CREAGER/Detroit Free Press

The conservative exterior of the three-story Sir John Soane's Museum near Holborn in London gives no clue to the eccentric, amazing interior, which is full of the architect's giant collection of antiquities. When he died in 1837, his house, complete with an Egyptian sarcophagus in the basement, became a museum.

London's famous front doors

Homes speak volumes about the English capital's real and mythic residents

By ELLEN CREAGER
Detroit Free Press

"I think he went a bit loopy after his wife died," whispered the woman standing next to me as we stood in Sir John Soane's Museum gazing at antiquities dangling from ceilings and perched on the rafters.

He apparently craved more, more and even more stuff. Was Soane eccentric? Definitely. But London is full of houses of unusual people — and some of them are museums, too. One day, I set off to visit as many as I could, those of Soane, Sigismund Freud, Charles Dickens, Queen Victoria and Sherlock Holmes.

Behind every front door was a story.

Sir John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn tube stop, no admission, Web: soane.org

A famed British architect in his day, Soane was what you might now call a gentleman hoarder, collecting far more Roman, Egyptian and Greek statues, urns, friezes and doodads than advisable — even keeping the giant sarcophagus

of Egyptian Pharaoh Seti I in his basement.

After his wife died in 1815, he used her money to keep collecting. When he died in 1837, he left an endowment to run the house as a museum. Eventually, the British government took over its support.

Astonished visitors will see a home stuffed with 5,888 ancient artifacts, 17,474 architectural drawings and prints, 202 engraved seals, 160 architectural models, 7,783 books and more, displayed nearly exactly as Soane left them.

What you think of it likely depends on your sensibilities.



Sigmund Freud himself might have been amused by the souvenirs available at the Freud Museum, including these playful buttons.

Some, like me, will not be able to get past the weird stuff, especially a crypt in the basement devoted to items he collected for his "imaginary friend," including a strange gold chair and a skull.

On the other hand, some will marvel at how he created an inventive personal museum for his architectural students, a way to let them see in person treasures they could not otherwise have glimpsed.

Still. Can you imagine dusting this place?

Freud Museum

20 Maresfield Gardens, Finchley tube stop, Entry fee 8 pounds (about \$13), Web: freud.org.uk

Objects that surround you are not just objects, but symbols of your unconscious beliefs, psychoanalysts believe.

If so, Freud had a whole bunch of inner thoughts. In 1938, he moved from his lifelong Vienna home to London when the Nazis invaded

Austria, and he brought everything.

His pretty brick home in the north of London today has an optimistic sky-blue front door and a charming rose garden. Freud lived only the last year of his life here, 1938 to 1939. His daughter Anna continued to live here until the 1980s, when it was turned into a museum.

Most fascinating is Freud's study, where he saw patients. Rather gloomy and full of cabinets of books, his large desk is nearly covered with small yet priceless ancient statues — his muses. There's the green chair on which he sat, never taking notes, and the analytic couch on which his patients lay, free-associating.

Given his line of work, Freud likely would have enjoyed the cartoons and the gift shop, which features "Super Ego" buttons, coffee cups labeled "Freudian Sips" and books like "The Psychopathology of Everyday Life."

Sherlock Holmes House

221B Baker Street, tube stop Baker Street, entry fee 8 pounds, Web: sherlock-holmes.co.uk

Sorry to break it to you, but Sherlock Holmes was not a real person. His "house" is nothing more than a re-creation of what author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle imagined in his many mysteries. Still, lines form down Baker Street for this popular attraction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 30

The high point in my opinion is the gift shop, which had souvenirs like detective caps, pipes and Sherlock Holmes ID cards.

It's a bit ironic that this place is so popular given that the author's real home, Undershaw, located south of London in Surrey, is a deplorable wreck. Even though it's where Conan Doyle wrote "Hound of the Baskervilles" and other classics, the home is boarded up while fans attempt to save it.

Charles Dickens Home

46 Doughty Street, tube stop Russell Square. Entry fee 8 pounds, Web: dickensmuseum.com

If anyone had a sentimental

view toward home life, it was Dickens. It's just that his real life didn't quite match the image. Dickens rented this house in Bloomsbury in his 20s when he was the budding author of "The Pickwick Papers" and a newly married newspaper reporter.

Here is where he wrote "Oliver Twist" and "Nicholas Nickleby." With the largest collection of Dickens artifacts in the world, the house contains a wonderful and well-used desk, his favorite cane seat chair and other bucolic touches.

He lived here at the start of his fame, when he and wife Catherine were happy and starting their family, many years before they bitterly separated. On display are a turquoise ring he gave her and the dining room table set

for a crowd.

From its inscribed first edition of "A Christmas Carol" to a lockbox with Dickens' hair, this homey museum is a warm window into Dickens' life before fame complicated everything.

Kensington Palace

Kensington Gardens, tube stop Queensway or High Street Kensington, entry fee 16.50 pounds (about \$27), Web: hp.org.uk/KensingtonPalace

One part of elegant Kensington Palace in Hyde Park is the current living quarters of Prince William, wife Kate and their baby, plus Prince Harry. The other half — the part not behind armed security fences — is an enjoyable museum about the previous tenants, including Queen Victoria, Princess Diana and Queen Anne.

Inventive displays created by theater groups keep the state rooms from being a dreary pod

through acres of carpets and upholstered settees. I especially loved the paper bluebirds skittering across the ceiling in the Queen's Apartments, as well as the beautifully laid-out story of Queen Victoria and the love of her life, Prince Albert. In the Fashion Hall, see Princess Diana's still-gorgeous gowns.

The gift shop here has everything from \$300 royal perfume to \$2 royal pencils; you also can stop here for tea.



EILEEN CREAGER/Detroit Free Press

The ornately decorated front gates of Kensington Palace in Hyde Park, London. The old part of palace is a museum now, but the more modern part is where Prince William and his family live, along with Prince Harry and some other royals.

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Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

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<p>China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaus 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-3806 Fax. 0961-3673 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Enterwilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	<p>PAPPEL HAUS Steinertstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>PALLAS Pallas Greek Specialties Untermer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	<p>Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23862808</p>
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<p>ENCHILADA - PURO MEXICO Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbaden@enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<p>Café Temptation reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/PX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>	<p>Joden's Diner Seerobstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodens-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

AUTUMN IN JAPAN

Japan

AUTUMN MINI BONSAI DISPLAY IN JINDAI BOTANICAL GARDEN (Tokyo): Through Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., closed Mon.; 100,000 trees and shrubs, and 5,100 varieties of roses grow here; dozens of mini-rose bonsai are on display at Special Exhibition Hall; 500 yen for garden entrance; tokyo-park.or.jp.

ANNUAL GRAND AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF YASUKUNI SHRINE (Tokyo): Through Oct. 20; various entertainments and traditional art of Japan 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Noh-gakudo stage along with chrysanthemums now through Nov. 5.

AUTUMN ROSE FESTIVAL IN KYU-FURUKAWA TEIEN GARDEN (Tokyo): Through Oct. 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 30-minute concerts noon & 3 p.m. Oct. 18 & 25; 150 yen for garden entrance; tokyo-park.or.jp.

AUTUMN ROSE FESTIVAL IN IKUTA RYOKUCHI GARDEN (Kanagawa prefecture): Through Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 9 a.m. weekends, closed Mon.; free.

AUTUMN ROSE FESTIVAL IN JINDAI BOTANICAL

GARDEN (Tokyo): Through Nov. 4, closed Mon.; 100,000 trees and shrubs, and 5,100 varieties of roses, and 2 p.m. concerts at Rose Garden Terrace Oct. 27; 500 yen to enter; tokyo-park.or.jp.

HIROSAKI CASTLE AUTUMN CHRYSANTHEMUM AND MAPLE LEAF FESTIVAL (Aomori prefecture): Through Nov. 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; chrysanthemums in the botanical garden in Hirosaki Park; hirosaki.co.jp/en.

AUTUMN ROSE FESTIVAL AT KEISEI ROSE GARDEN (Chiba prefecture): Through Nov. 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., open 8 a.m. Oct. 25, 26, Nov. 1, 2, 3, 8 & 9; rose garden tour, flower arrangement, live concerts and more; 1,000 yen adults, 700 yen seniors, 400 yen junior high school students, 200 yen children.

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.



Nonno Murao/Stars and Stripes

Autumn leaves are bright at Nakashiba areas of Mount Naeba, located in Niigata prefecture, Japan. The mountain is about 7,037 feet above sea level.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Stars and Stripes

Kyoto Jidai Matsuri Festival, Japan

Samurai in armor are followed by samurai in formal attire at a procession from the Imperial Palace to Heian Shrine, Kyoto, as part of the festival held on Oct. 22 at the shrine. The annual festival is one of the three biggest festivals in Kyoto and features a procession of 2,000 people in period dress. The parade starts at the Imperial Palace at noon. For more: tinyurl.com/96dagbk.

CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVALS

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

KASAMA INARI JINJA CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL (Ibaraki prefecture): Oct. 18-Nov. 24; festival, started in 1890, is Japan's oldest; also features Kasama Inari Museum and Kasama Inari special chrysanthemum decorated dolls exhibition; 800 yen adults, 400 yen children; www.kasama.or.jp.

MASON GAGOPA CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL: Oct. 24-Nov. 2; exhibitions, culture programs, food tasting, live performance and more; Masonhang Port, Wharf 1; take an express bus to Mason Express Bus Terminal, then take Bus 703 and get off at Jeil Girls' High School.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Get quacking in South Korea

Children watch a giant yellow rubber duck floating in Seokchon Lake in Seoul on Oct. 14. The duck, created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, will be on display in Seoul through Nov. 14.

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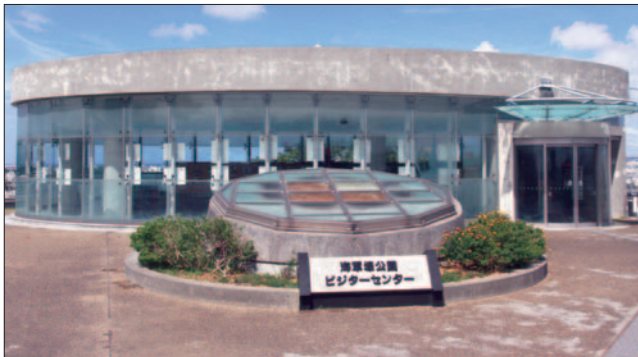
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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

The Former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters sits atop a hill in Tomishiro City, Okinawa, overlooking Naha and the sea. One step inside the cavernous maze transports visitors back to 1945.



An artist's rendition of Rear Adm. Minoru Ota during his final moments in the captain's quarters.

Where hope was lost

Japanese Navy bunker serves as a grim reminder of the bloody Battle of Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Water drips through porous rock in the cool, dark cavern, providing a respite from the subtropical humidity outside. The shrapnel-peppered concrete provides a stark reminder that this refuge was once a battleground.

The Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters was the scene of extreme violence, where 5,000 sailors from the Former Imperial Japanese Navy under the command of Rear Adm. Minoru Ota made their last stand during the Battle of Okinawa at the end of World War II, many armed with only rudimentary spears.

The remains of 2,400, many of whom committed suicide as the 6th Marine Division closed in, were later recovered in the damp tunnels and rooms that had been carved from stone.

"Destroy the ugly Americans" is scrawled in Japanese on a wall in Ota's quarters.

Nearby, Ota wrote the words to his favorite *waka*, or Japanese poem, before he, too, committed suicide: "Born as a man, nothing fulfills my life more than to die



Ota committed suicide in this room, the commander's quarters of the underground headquarters, in the wee hours of June 13, 1945.

in the name of the Emperor."

The former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters in Tomishiro City in southern Okinawa is a time machine opened so "future generations might understand the tragedy of war, and to invite prayers for lasting world peace," according to the Okinawa Convention and Visitors Bureau.

One step inside the cavernous maze transports visitors back to 1945.

The desperation of the Japanese sailors who lived, fought and died there still hangs heavy in the dank air. It's also easy to see the uphill fight faced by the U.S. Marines, the site stands atop the tallest point in the area and looks down on Naha city.

The 450 meters of semi-circular tunnels were built by the Japanese Navy Corps of Engineers' Yamane Division in 1944 using little but pick axes, hoes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

ON THE QT:

DIRECTIONS

The Former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters is located about 20 minutes from Naha Airport by car at 236 Aza Tomishiro, Tomishiro City. Take Route 58 toward the airport, but stay left after Meiji Bridge instead of going up the ramp that leads to the airport off-ramp. Take a left onto Route 7. Go straight until you reach the Route 7 bypass. Take a right onto the bypass but stay left at the "V" shaped intersection. Take a left after passing the Ueharu Elementary and Kindergarten. Stay to the left at the fork and wind your way to the top of the hill. The signs are in Japanese, but they point in the right direction.

TIMES

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COSTS

Adults pay 440 yen to enter the bunker complex and museum; children 220 yen. Discounts available for groups.



NOVA AMBROW/Stars and Stripes

FOOD

A small store onsite sells beverages and snacks. There is also a gift shop that sells an English language history of the bunker and the war for 100 yen among other Imperial Navy memorabilia.

INFORMATION

Telephone: 098-850-4055
Website: <http://kaigunougovb.or.jp/top.html> (Japanese only)

— Matthew M. Burke

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

A Japanese visitor stands at the Former Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters in Tomishiro City.

FROM PAGE 34

and determination. The complex was then reinforced with timber and concrete. It was meant to outlast aerial bombardment and shelter 4,000 troops.

On Oct. 10, 1944, nearly 1,000 American aircraft descended on Okinawa, turning Naha virtually into ash, according to Visitors Bureau literature available at the headquarters. Of the 110,000 Japanese defenders of the island, about 10,000 were stationed in the Oroku district, site of the underground headquarters.

On April 1, U.S. forces touched down on Japanese soil for the first time in the mid-island region of Okinawa. The Japanese battleship Yamato and 2,000 kamikaze were dispatched to the area. The ship was sunk; few of the kamikaze survived.

As American forces pushed north and south, sailors from the Oroku district were sent north as reserves in the fighting on several occasions. Civilians died in the fighting after Japanese forces expelled them from caves.

Japanese propaganda encouraged locals to commit suicide. Husbands slashed their children and wives to death before taking their own lives. Others used hand grenades.

Ota had made an agreement with the commander of the 32nd Army that once they retreated south he would destroy the weapons at the underground headquarters and follow.



The Japanese Navy defenders of Okinawa that did not commit suicide exited through this door, many without weapons, to make a final stand against the American military.

Due to a "miscommunication," Ota enacted the plan, but when they arrived in the south, he realized the 32nd Army was not there. He ordered a return to the tunnel complex.

On June 4 the 6th Marine Division landed on the coast of Oroku, where Naha International Airport is located today, and began to push the Japanese defenders back inland. Many locals decided to die at their homes rather than evacuate.

Ota's last telegram to his superiors was sent a week later: "Our headquarters fell at 11:30 p.m. on the 11th. The attack by enemy combat vehicles is still continuing. I am grateful for your friendship and send my best wishes."

Ota and his officers killed themselves in the early morning hours of June 13. Ten days later, organized fighting on the island ended. The "Typhoon of Steel," as the battle would be called, cost over 200,000 lives.

After the war, the bodies of the underground headquarters' defenders were removed and interred. In 1970, the tourism development board opened 300 meters of tunnels for viewing. They had been largely left alone for the better part of a quarter of a century.

Today, the underground headquarters stands as a testament to the horrors of war and fanaticism. It is hard to imagine that two stalwart allies like the U.S. and Japan fought and died there on opposite sides.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Stars and Stripes reporter Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report.



PHOTOS BY ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

"Da Bone," a braised short rib on a bed of garlicky mashed potatoes and grilled vegetables, is one of the star attractions at Delmonico's, arriving in all its juicy, fatty glory.

After Hours: Guam

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

Delmonico's Kitchen and Bar is on the northern bend of Pale San Vitores Road that joins Guam's two worlds.

On one end is the majority-Japanese tourist haven of Hotel Row. On the other is Marine Corps Drive, which runs through Guam's largest towns and military bases.

In keeping with its location, there are a few nods to Japanese cooking and preferences; meanwhile, the emphasis on steaks and big portions keeps this high-end-for-Guam restaurant thoroughly American in most other respects.

The big draw for most locals is "Da Bone," a full short rib braised for hours and rested on a garlicky bed of mashed potatoes. Few restaurants take the time to braise, and that's a shame, because variable heat and liquid do wonderful things to the collagens in an otherwise tough piece of meat.

Da Bone is a very large, flavorful serving, and well worth the \$25 price. However, it comes with a lot of fat (it's meant to), so carnivorous diners who aren't used to that might opt for a steak instead. Delmonico's regularly offers four cuts in 13 different styles.

Despite the emphasis on beef, other dishes aren't the afterthought they sometimes are at similar venues.

The wood-smoked salmon was seared nicely yet moist. The grilled vegetables on the side were tasty, with one exception: the mushroom somehow soaked up so much salt that it was inedible.

Unfortunately, Delmonico's ran out of the mesclun greens normally accompanying the dish.

DELMONICO'S KITCHEN AND BAR

Address: 1475 Pale San Vitores Road

Hours: 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 5:30 p.m.-midnight

Food: The emphasis is on beef, however the restaurant offers a range of dishes, including fish, chicken, pizza, pasta, sandwiches, burgers and salads. Portions are large.

Prices: High for Guam. Note to off-island visitors: Delmo-

nico's automatically adds a 10-percent service charge to the bill. It's a policy you won't find much past Marine Corps Drive, but near Hotel Row in Tamon, where most tourists don't come from a tipping culture, it's standard.

Telephone: 671-647-4411
Website: dkguam.com (in English).

— Erik Slavin

The substituted romaine salad was OK but a bit boring compared to what the restaurant is capable of with salads. For example, its spinach salad is relatively simple, but accents of orange and a healthy toss of real bacon — not those alien-looking fake bacon bits found elsewhere — liven it up nicely.

Delmonico's bills itself as a restaurant and bar, and while there is a bar for six customers or so, I wouldn't consider it for

visitors looking for a night out on the town. It's fine, though, if you're alone, or happen to be staying at the adjoining Bayview Hotel.

The wine list isn't long but includes a solid range of mid-range varietals, with emphasis on West Coast appellations like Chateau St. Michelle. Beers are mostly standard lagers, but include an IPA and Redd's ale on tap.

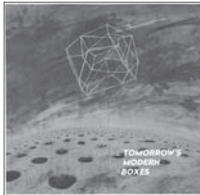
slavin.erik@stripes.com
Twitter: @eslavin_stripes



The spinach salad, topped with bacon and mandarin oranges, is available as an appetizer or a meal.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Thom Yorke
Tomorrow's Modern Boxes
(Self-released)

There's been a group out there defending Thom Yorke for 15 years now. They're a hardy but dwindling lot, holding the line as fickle fans became more and more disinterested watching the increasingly inscrutable Radiohead frontman float off into the ambient atmosphere under the spell of Flying Lotus and Modeselektor.

Yorke's second solo album won't slow the erosion. In fact, "Tomorrow's Modern Boxes" most likely will be remembered more for the way it was released than for the music it actually contains (a growing theme as more big artists look for splashy new distribution models).

Yorke released "Boxes" as a bundle on BitTorrent, the latest in a growing line of guerrilla releases from Yorke and his cohorts. Remember the pay-what-you-want sales model for Radiohead's "In Rainbows"?

"Boxes" gives fans eight songs and a video for the happy price of \$6. Yorke and longtime producer Nigel Godrich hope it will offer a model for other artists.

All of this is interesting. Unfortunately, it's more interesting than the bedroom electronica Yorke offers on "Boxes."

The great thing about Thom Yorke, his defenders say, is he's always doing something different. You can never guess what a Radiohead album will sound like before it's released. Yorke's first solo album, 2006's "The Eraser," also marked new territory.

This time around Yorke draws a straight line from his previous work. There's little to distinguish the music here from some of the more spacey pieces on "The Eraser" and Radiohead's last album, "The King of Limbs."

— Chris Talbott
The Associated Press



Johnny Marr
Playland (Warner)

When Johnny Marr completed his first solo album, "The Messenger," in 2013, the man behind the beautifully maudlin rhythms of The Smiths didn't rest on his laurels. He continued to write, and his sophomore effort, "Playland," is the pleasant result of that work ethic.

"Playland" is strong with guitar certainly, but is also rich with hooks and a decidedly energetic pace. If you're waiting for sad Smith-ian sand kickers, you won't find them here.

Marr airs out things into a larger wall of sound, offering the solid song "Candidate" about living in the moment. I'm tempted to play that song backward to discern if there's a hidden clue about a reunion of The Smiths. Mercurial Smiths frontman Morrissey and Marr remain publicly at odds over the proposal, but there's always hope.

— Ron Harris
The Associated Press



Flying Lotus

You're Dead! (Warp)

It takes a minute to get your head around Flying Lotus' fifth album, because he has so many ideas flitting around his. The 30-year-old, wildly creative Los Angeles experimental music producer born Stephen Ellison also rhymes under the nom de rap Captain Murphy (who "guests" on two "You're Dead!" tracks).

He's apt to mix psych rock guitar solos and drum 'n' bass electronic beats, futuristic chanting, and free-form jazz improvisation.

In service of his musical vision, Ellison pulls in various musical helpmates, including Herbie Hancock, Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar, Dirty Projectors singer Andy Deraodorian, and monster bassist Thundercat. All are expertly utilized in getting across the mind-expanding "You're Dead!" message: You're Dead!

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Courtesy of Press Here Publicity

RISK & REWARD

David Gray finds value in changing recording process for 10th album

BY TIMOTHY FINN
The Kansas City Star

When he started work on his 10th studio album, David Gray had one thing in mind: taking a different approach to everything, from songwriting to production.

"I didn't want to repeat myself," he said. "I didn't want to just set jaded observations to music. I wanted to find something else, a sense of epiphany."

The results are the 11 songs that make up "Mutineers," which was released in June. It was produced by Andy Barlow, one half of the electronic band Lamb.

To extract something fresh or epiphanic out of

the large batch of songs Gray brought into the studio, Barlow imposed a process that Gray said was challenging but ultimately accomplished his goal: "I was thirsty to get new sounds involved. It was challenging at times, learning to trust the other person, but I was up for it."

He'd imposed changes of his own long before he went into the studio, when he put the songwriting process in reverse.

"Normally, I write chords, then melodies, then lyrics," he said. "This time I wrote words first, then the music. It was fascinating. It disabled my sense of taste. When I was writing songs like 'Birds of the High Arctic' and 'Snow in Vegas,' I wasn't certain what I thought of them. I wasn't certain the melody had any merit."

"But I worked in a more objective fashion in finishing them, and I later realized they were as good as any I'd done the other way."

Gray, 46, is a native of Sale, England. As a youth, his musical influences included Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Van Morrison, John Martyn and Nick Drake. He has since become a fan of peers such as Will Oldham and Bill Callahan.

He has been a recording artist since 1993, when he released the acoustic-folk album "A Century Ends." In 2000, ATO Records, co-founded by Dave Matthews, re-released Gray's fourth, "White Ladder," which contained what would become his first and biggest hit, "Babylon."

From 2002 to 2010, he released four full-length albums and a greatest-hits collection. Reviews ranged from glowing to lukewarm. The All Music Guide called "Draw the Line," released in 2009, "essentially another cog in the folksy wheel he's been spinning since 'New Day at Midnight,'" released in 2002.

So when it came time to make "Mutineers," Gray was adamant about not spinning his wheels or regurgitating words and music he'd already made,

about exploring places he'd never seen. Barlow became the catalyst for getting him there. Gray estimated he brought about four dozen songs into the studio in varying stages of completion.

"Andy has a very good ear and decisive ear about the possibility in the music," he said, "and he pushed me around to get me to crack the songs open. Occasionally, it was hard to take, having your most intimate work pulled apart in front of you."

"Instead of trying to do posher versions of demos, we tore them up and started again."

Much of the record was created in the studio, Gray said, and those risks and that spontaneity give the album a different vibe.

Lyrical, "Mutineers" is more uplifting. And the music is more "celebratory," as Gray put it. It has received some of the best reviews of his career.

Finding "the new," not reviews, was what the process was all about — emerging from a void he'd been suspended in, as he put it. Gray said the rewards were hard-won but invigorating.

"It's a new sense of being alive musically," he said, "all infused with renewed energy and a celebratory tone. But it wasn't easy getting there."



Looking for a fresh approach, singer-songwriter David Gray brought in Andy Barlow, half of the electronic band Lamb, to produce "Mutineers."

WEEKEND: MUSIC

DEFYING LABELS

Florida Georgia Line's 'Anything Goes' sure to please fans, if not critics

Florida Georgia Line: Brian Kelley, left, and Tyler Hubbard.

Courtesy of Sweet Talk Publicity



Florida Georgia Line

Anything Goes (Republic Nashville)

Busting out with a record-breaking country single, as Florida Georgia Line did with its multiplatinum smash, "Cruise," doesn't always ensure long-term success. But "Anything Goes," the duo's second album, suggests they have enough talent and ideas to get past the backlash that comes with overexposure.

Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelley keep the mood fun and grooving, with producer Joey Moi bringing plenty of fresh sonic surprises amid the beats and harmonies.



For example, "Sun Daze" could be undermined by the silly pun of its title, on a song about spending a Sunday soaking in rays and indulging in at least two brand-name liquors.

But Moi's arrangement brings in whistling, hand claps and a banjo to create a bright groove that insists on making hips sway.

Similarly, new single "Bumpin' the Night" works a predictable double entendre about a couple moving in tandem while drinking (of course), cruising the town and sharing time alone. But the arrangement once again comes to the rescue.

Florida Georgia Line's recent hit, "Dirt," proved the band can deal with subjects beyond throwing down with friends. But they rarely bother on the rest of "Anything Goes." And that's OK, as long as Florida Georgia Line remains this consistently inventive and engaging.

—Michael McCall
The Associated Press

By KRISTIN M. HALL

The Associated Press

If you think Florida Georgia Line has been bothered by critics taking shots at them over their interpretation of country music, the duo says they're looking forward to round two.

"Anybody that has made any mark on history, musically or business-wise ... has always been criticized for it," said singer Tyler Hubbard, the Georgia-born half of the award-winning duo. "So we're hoping to be criticized, because that means we're doing something big and that means we're making big moves and we're making history."

Hubbard, 27, and Brian Kelley, 29, have become targets for labels like "bro-country" that dismiss as a passing fashion the pair behind the most popular digital country single of all time, a hip-hop remix of their good-time ode "Cruise" with rapper Nelly that has gone platinum eight times.

Their sophomore album, "Anything Goes," has more songs that are sure to both excite legions of fans and challenge anyone trying to pigeonhole them.

"Honestly, we are kinda buckled up, expecting more criticism, because anything that takes off and anything that is successful, it becomes cool to hate that," Hubbard said. "It becomes cool to put that down and everyone wants to knock you off the top."

Jason Aldean, who had the pair open for him on his Night Train tour, said they have brought a younger generation of fans to country music.

"I think what they brought to the format is what it needed," said Aldean, whose hit single "Burnin' It Down" is an R&B-style love song that Hubbard and Kelley co-wrote. "It needed a shot in the arm."

They built their work ethic during long days of songwriting and small-town gigs, like the Tennessee county fair where they met their producer, Joey Moi.

They paid homage to their traditional country roots by releasing "Dirt," a nostalgic, sentimental ballad that peaked at No. 11 on the Hot 100, as the first single from the new record.

"It still has a traditional way, but it's done in a fresh, modern FGL kind of way," Kelley said.

They went the other direction on the beachy "Sun Daze," which includes lyrics about getting stoned that could test some country radio programmers.

"For us, especially on this album, we almost said 'no rules' when we were writing these songs," Hubbard said. "Let's just write this from the heart, what we want to write, what we want to sing and what we want to perform every night. Anything goes, who cares what it is."

The professional partiers are actually pretty settled down. Since the debut album, Kelley got married and Hubbard is engaged.

"We haven't focused on the things that success can buy," Kelley said. "We're very honored to have all that, but that's here today and gone tomorrow, and we want to make music that's going to last forever, that people can enjoy."

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Full Measure

T. Jefferson Parker

T. Jefferson Parker delivers an emotional and gut-wrenching literary departure that's miles away from what his crime-novel fans would expect in "Full Measure."

Patrick Norris returns home after a military tour in Afghanistan. He has been forever changed by the horrors he faced, the people he was forced to kill and the friends he watched die. Patrick is happy to see his family and start a small sport fishing business. But an arsonist has destroyed the majority of the trees on his parents' avocado farm. They're close to financial ruin and they ask Patrick for help, which forces him to put aside his dreams.

The challenge to rebuild the business, along with secrets that threaten to tear the family apart, takes away the hope he had when he first returned. Patrick has left the battlefield of Afghanistan to enter another war, this time on the homefront. Parker captures the experience of what it means for a soldier to return home. The economic struggle of Patrick's family showcases the plight of the working farmer.

Parker has a gift for storytelling, and "Full Measure" is realistic on every level.

— Jeff AyersAP

Truth Be Told

Hank Phillippi Ryan

In "Truth Be Told," reporter Jane Ryland is investigating families who have lost their homes due to foreclosure. While on-site at a house that a bank is taking away from a family, Ryland sees police and then the medical examiner arrive. When Detective Jake Brogan arrives on the scene, Ryland realizes there's been a homicide.

Brogan and Ryland are secretly dating. Their relationship needs to be kept under wraps because of potential conflict of interest. Their feelings make it difficult to do their jobs effectively and spend any time together. Is their relationship doomed? Can they work on the same case?

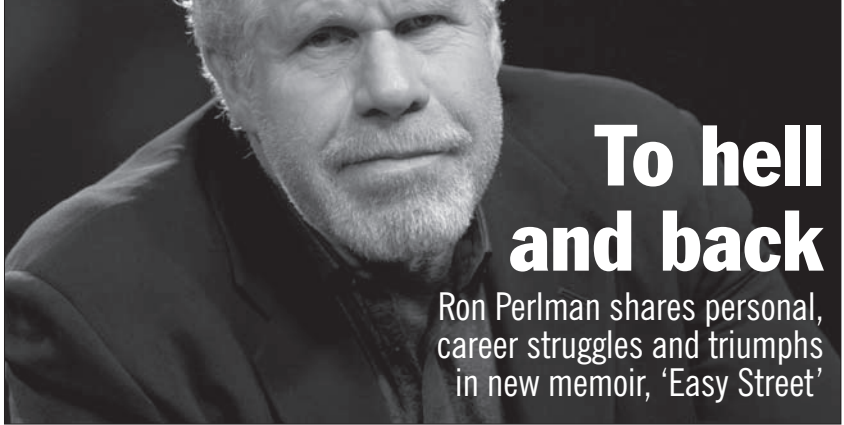
While the murder puts them together working side by side, Brogan receives a confession from a man claiming to be responsible for the murder of a young girl years earlier. This cold case has plagued Brogan, and while it would be great to have resolution, he can't shake the feeling that the man isn't guilty. But what would make the man confess to a crime he didn't commit?

Hank Phillippi Ryan juggles a lot of story elements, and she nails them all in this high-quality reading adventure.

— Jeff AyersAP

Actor Ron Perlman has more than 200 credits in theater, film, TV and voice work in his 30-plus-year career thanks to his signature growly demeanor. Now, he's the proud owner of a revealing memoir, "Easy Street (The Hard Way)."

RICHARD DREW/AP



To hell and back

Ron Perlman shares personal, career struggles and triumphs in new memoir, 'Easy Street'

BY LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

Looking for Easy Street? Just follow the horned Hellboy, badass bicyclist Clay Morrow or Vincent the lion man from "Beauty and the Beast."

The guy behind the facades is Ron Perlman whose self-professed Neanderthal bone structure and leading-man blue eyes have made him a household face.

Perlman, 64, has racked up more than 200 credits in theater, film, TV and voice work in his 30-plus years in Hollywood. Now, he's the proud owner of a revealing memoir, "Easy Street (The Hard Way)," co-written by Michael Largo with a foreword by one of his enablers, filmmaker Guillermo del Toro.

Of his many gigs, Perlman said in a recent interview, writing a book is the "trippiest part of it all." It's something he never figured he'd do, until his two kids — 24 and 28 — followed him into the arts and he doubted they had strong models like the ones that shaped him: Bogart, Brando, the Beatles and more.

Perlman, a salty talker ever chomping on a fat cigar, does a lot of namedropping in his book, but the native New Yorker also digs deep into his childhood, his lean years selling handbags to support his family, his older brother's suicide and his father's sudden death.

And there's "The Event," as he calls it — his own suicide attempt with pills and booze after realizing he hadn't hit Easy Street after all. There were no calls, no offers after his first big movie, "Quest for Fire" in 1982 in which he played a caveman.

Well into his second act, has Perlman finally made it?

Before Clay took a bullet to the jugular last season on "Sons of Anarchy," the motorcycle drama broke FX records. In addition to the book, Amazon just green lighted "Hand of God" for an original series, starring Perlman as a morally corrupt judge who speaks directly to the man upstairs

through his brain-dead son.

Perlman's production company, Wing and a Prayer Pictures, has 10 projects in the works.

"So I'm quite busy," he said. "I'm in fantasyville right now. I really am."

A conversation with Ron Perlman:

You worshipped your dad, who used to take you to the movies and died of a massive coronary when he was only 49. And you hated yourself, the working class overweight Jewish kid who spent years thinking he wasn't worthy of anything. How did you get past all that?

I could not begin to tell you where these feelings of low self-esteem emanated from. It was just this thing.

When it came time to achieve things that required a good deal of self-confidence, even just dating of girls, you're nowhere. That was me.

God comes up in the book and, obviously,

in "Hand of God." What kind of a relationship have you got with Him?

I come from a dad who I adored, upon whose thought and word I hung, and he was an agnostic and maybe even an atheist. He had kind of an active dysfunction with that kind of spiritual stuff. Strangely enough it was him dying that kind of turned me on to this universe that was made up of things that weren't explainable, that ultimately I assigned to this all-present, all-powerful being who sees all, knows all and who really actually does have a plan.

Once I recognized that such a being existed, I began to give myself over to it partially

and understand that it was a partnership. We talk. We talk a dozen times a day. Some people tweet.

You've said there are things in the book that not even Opal, your wife of 33 years, knew about. What are they and did you think it was to break any big news to her in that way?

The event. The only thing that's in there that she was not privy to was that moment, what I tried to do. I got so low. I became clinically depressed, to the point where I couldn't help myself anymore. I was getting ready to check out and she didn't know that I actually got that low.

What has "Sons of Anarchy" meant to you?

It's far and away the most responded-to thing I've ever done in my entire career. That WAS a game changer.

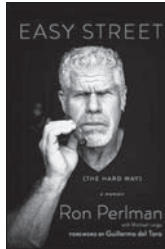
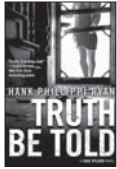
Playing Clay Morrow was challenging, until it got to be something else. The character went down some roads that became very, very uncomfortable for me to play. I began to lose my admiration for Clay. He began making decisions and behaving in such a way where I began to stop admiring him. And I never played a character in my career that I didn't admire.

How did you feel about the way he was killed off?

Not great. I thought that there would be some sort of redemption at the end, that he would look at what he did and sort of have an "Oedipus at Colonus" kind of a moment where he became truly remorseful and he made good with all of the people that he hurt along the way, but it was my show to write.

So you don't like motorcycles?

I rode a little bit for the show. It never became a little thing. It became a lot of the other guys' thing. They really fell in love with this thing, this sensation. I like my Bose speakers and the ashtray where I can put my cigar while I'm driving with two hands. I'm a different generation. The Sinatra generation.



WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

"X-Men: Days of Future Past": Mutant heroes from two time periods join forces to fight for survival. The film is way too long and is overloaded with characters, but its general story is fun. It's best when focusing on Professor X, whether played by Patrick Stewart or James McAvoy. Both play the role with such sincerity that it makes the movie stronger. The only problem is director Bryan Singer turns to over-blown special effects that just get in the way.



20th Century Fox/AP

Hugh Jackman is Wolverine in "X-Men: Days of Future Past."

"Houdini": Adrien Brody is spellbinding and Kristen Connolly is compelling in this History Channel production that looks at the life and times of the world's greatest escape artist. Not only does the production pull back the curtain to reveal some of Houdini's greatest secrets, it also provides a glimpse into the performer's life off the stage. The first two hours are the best as they feature the rise of Houdini to stardom. The second half gets bogged down slightly with Houdini's obsession with the afterlife. Brody makes even the slower parts seem magical.

"Two and a Half Men: Season 11": The CBS comedy continues its slide into repetitive dullness. Even Ashton Kutcher and Amber Tamblyn can't give the sitcom any comical snap. The worst part is that Jon Cryer's character has been reduced to such a cartoon character it's embarrassing to watch him work. It's bad enough the show's structure has to be twisted sideways to keep him in the story, but the fact he has nothing to do makes it worse.

" Fargo: Season One": A remarkable cable adaptation of the hit feature film. Starring Billy Bob Thornton and Martin Freeman, Thornton plays a man of mystery who changes the life of small town insurance salesman (Freeman). The series keeps all of the Midwestern quirks that made the film so endearing but adds several fun and emotional levels to give it a very original feel. It's winner you know.

Also new on DVD: Series reinvents literature's most famous characters. Timothy Dalton stars.

"Mr. Peabody & Sherman": Brilliant pooch and his silly young boy sidekick travel through time.

"CatDog: The Complete Series": Includes 68 episodes of the animated series.

"Life after Beth": Relationship is strained when one of the couple becomes a zombie.

"Werewolf Rising": Trip to the country brings a woman face-to-face with something unspeakable.

"Mystery Road": Detective investigates murder of teen.

"Secret History of World War II": Three documentaries tell untold stories of World War II.

"The Equation of Life": Film about bullying.

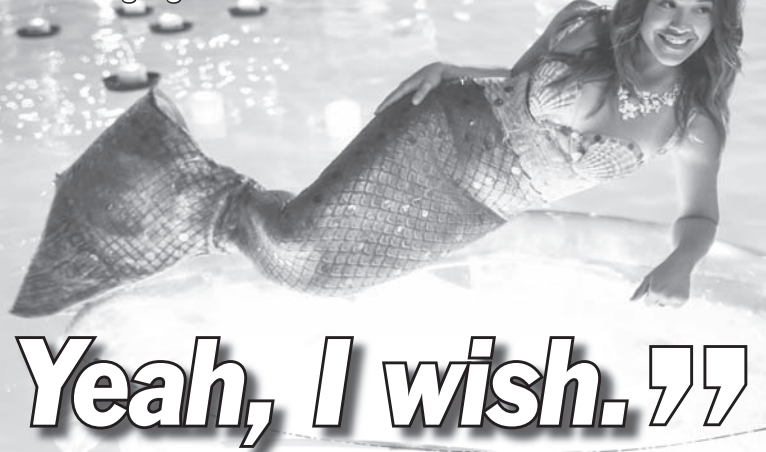
"Beneath the Harvest Sky": One friend puts a strain on a long friendship. Emory Cohen stars.

"A Very Vegas Christmas": "Paw'n Stars" debate on a movie and worst deals they ever made.

"Devil's Deal": Hell comes to the town of Burning Bush.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

"I was the 'It Girl.' People were like, 'Rah, rah, rah, you're amazing. You're going to be Jennifer Lawrence' ...



The CW/AP

Gina Rodriguez portrays Jane in the television series "Jane the Virgin." The show airs Thursdays on AFN-Family.

Actress stands her ground on TV series 'Jane the Virgin'

BY LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

Actress Gina Rodriguez's adorably fizzy charm itself would be enough to make Jane the Virgin look like a winner.

But the sitcom boasts a premise that's both high-concept and clever, as well as offering the rare prospect of a show that is focused on Latino characters who go beyond stereotypes.

Based on a Venezuelan telenovela, "Jane the Virgin" is about a young woman who has clung to celibacy as instructed by a sternly loving grandmother and to further her own dreams of professional success.

Fate has other, crazy plans, and the still-virginal Jane finds herself pregnant. Chaos and comedy ensue, impeccably played out in the pilot starring Rodriguez as Jane Villanueva; Brett Dier as her confused fiancé Michael; Ivonne Coll as grandmother Alba, and Andrea Navedo as Jane's high-spirited mother, Xiomara.

For The CW, the sitcom is an odd duck, a family comedy on a schedule rife with zombies, superheroes and vampires.

The network must avoid slipping "completely down a genre hole" and being perceived as other than a broadcaster, CW President Mark Pedowitz told a TV critics' meeting.

"Jane the Virgin" can help, he said.

"Audiences do not come to us to

watch procedurals. They have other, better places to go. But they do come to us to watch interesting characters in a very serialized form," Pedowitz said.

For Rodriguez, 29, "Jane the Virgin" was a project worth waiting for. The actress, whose credits include "The Bold and the Beautiful" and "Army Wives" and indie films, said she turned down a role on Lifetime's "Devious Maids," Marc Cherry's successful follow-up to ABC's "Desperate Housewives" that he produces with Eva Longoria.

The positive buzz swirling around the sitcom is reminiscent of what Rodriguez encountered when the 2012 film "Filly Brown," in which she played an aspiring hip-hop artist, screened at Robert Redford's Sundance festival.

"I was the 'It Girl,'" she recalled. "People were like, 'Rah, rah, rah, you're amazing. You're going to be Jennifer Lawrence' ... Yeah, I wish."

Such big-screen fame wasn't immediately forthcoming, but she's already determined how to handle herself whatever happens.

"I learned about the woman I want to be, that ego is the death of talent," said Rodriguez, who doesn't name names when it comes to anti-role models in the industry.

Besides, she says, she has already achieved a measure of success in the eyes of those she holds dearest, her family. After graduating from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Rodriguez appeared on stage

as artist Frida Kahlo and got one especially crucial review.

"You can do this. You're good," she recalled her father telling her. "I said, 'I made it. He believed in me. He accepted everything I wanted to accept and believe in.'"

The Chicago-born Rodriguez credits parents Genero and Magali Rodriguez with instilling drive and positive self-esteem into her and her two older sisters. One is a physician, the other an investment banker.

"I'm not a self-made anything," she said, firmly. "My father made me look in the mirror and say, 'Today's going to be a great day. I can and I will.'"

Rodriguez is appealingly confident in an interview, holding a listener's gaze and punctuating her rapid-fire speech with smiles. Tell her she could give Oprah Winfrey a run for her money as a self-empowerment guru and she laughs good-naturedly.

She certainly wasted no time in pursuing her goals. At age 7, Rodriguez joined a salsa dance company, eventually performing at events throughout the country. The experience awakened her to the actress within. "When I was dancing onstage I just wanted the music to stop, and I wanted to talk and I wanted the lights to come up and I wanted the spotlight on me," she said. "I always felt this pull to tell stories. I wanted people to hear my heart or hear my voice and be affected by it."

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

When someone you know has cancer

What to say, and what not to say, to those fighting disease

BY CHERYL POWELL
Akron Beacon Journal

"I will make you stronger."
 "You're going to lose your hair?"
 "My friend had cancer 10 years ago, and they did this treatment and she was a hot mess."

It seems even people with the best intentions sometimes say the wrong things when a friend or family member faces a cancer diagnosis.

Or sometimes they simply disappear, unsure what to say or do.

With arrival of October comes plenty of pink on everything everywhere as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

So what better time to raise awareness about what's helpful — and what's not — when a friend, family member or acquaintance has cancer?

For many patients, just having someone present in their lives can be the biggest sign of support, said Heidi Eve-Cahoon, a registered nurse and breast cancer navigator for Summa Health System in Akron, Ohio.

"Continue the relationships," she said. "Too many people back away when somebody has cancer, and it's either because they're uncomfortable with it, they don't know what to say, or they've had a bad experience with cancer in their lives."

"It's important. That person needs their friendships and their family relationships."

Carol Thoman, 73, has relied on the help and comforting words of her neighbors in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, since being diagnosed with breast cancer in February.

They brought her meals, offered rides and mowed her grass as she went through treatments. When they went to the store, neighbors stopped by her home and asked if she needed anything.

Another neighbor who had faced her own breast cancer battle sat with her for hours, sharing thoughts and feelings only a fellow patient could understand.

"Just knowing they were there, whether I used them or didn't use them, was very comforting," Thoman said.

Akron General Hospital breast care coordinator Kathy Lukity said it's often more helpful to patients if friends or relatives offer to help with specific chores, rather than saying, "Let me know if I can do anything for you."

"You need somebody to say, 'I'm going to the store. What can I pick up for you?'" she said.

"People might not have the nerve to say, 'Can you

go to the store for me?'"

Friends and family members also can help patients by encouraging them to stay active, said Dr. Melanie Lynch, a surgical oncologist at Summa. About 30 minutes of exercise each day can help combat fatigue, a common side effect from cancer treatments.

Offer to go for a walk or take a trip to a mall or museum, she suggested.

"Even if it's just getting outside, that will help as well," she said.

Eve-Cahoon offered these other "do's and don'ts" for friends and family members of cancer patients:

Do:

Allow patients to be angry or quiet. "Accept her emotions," she said.

Offer support. Give the person your phone number and offer to do things such as go to the grocery store, drive to appointments or baby-sit.

Say things to let the person know you care. It can be as simple as, "If you need to talk, I'm here for you" or "I'm sorry you're going through this. It must be very scary."

Be willing to accompany the patient to doctor's appointments. "Be a second set of ears if the person asks you to come along," Eve-Cahoon said. "Take notes."

Help organize paperwork. Cancer patients must contend with piles of insurance forms, receipts, test results and appointment reminders.

Bring meals. But call first to see what the patient is interested in eating.

Help the spouse. Do things to make sure the significant other has time alone and understands the emotions are normal.

Don't:

Give advice. "It's like being pregnant — everybody has a story," Eve-Cahoon said. "They're usually horror stories. They don't need to hear those things."

Offer platitudes, like "It will make you stronger" or "It's God's will."

Tell others about the diagnosis unless the patient says it's OK to share information. "I know one lady who came to me and she was so upset because she didn't want to tell anybody about her breast cancer until she was ready, and her family member told a neighbor and it got all around," Eve-Cahoon said.

"I didn't do anything different than anyone else who has had breast cancer. It's just how it happened in my body. It wasn't that I didn't eat right or I didn't exercise enough or I was negative."

She is constantly aware of her illness. "I don't think I go more than five minutes without it at least popping into my head," she said. "And during this month, it really is everywhere."



The Seattle Times illustration

Why some women with breast cancer dread October

BY BARBARA BROTMAN
Chicago Tribune

The pink ribbons, pink T-shirts, pink carnations, a pink bra sculpture — there's pink seemingly everywhere, promoting mammograms, raising funds and celebrating survivors in October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

But there are some people who are not uplifted by the annual campaign. Including some who are breast cancer patients.

Not the ones with triumphant stories of finishing treatment with apparent cures. The ones with metastatic breast cancer — cancer that has spread, and is incurable.

Their stories are rarely told during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, said Katherine O'Brien, 48, of La Grange, Ill., a board member of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network.

They aren't happy stories. People with metastatic breast cancer spend the rest of their lives, however long they last,

undergoing repeated rounds of treatments and scans. The disease is always on their minds; the shadow of death is always on the horizon.

And eventually, the shadow falls.

Who wants to hear about that?

"I feel like I'm the wet dishrag," said O'Brien. "There's a party, but I'm just a damper on the party."

"I'm happy, of course, for people who are doing well and have finished treatment, but I don't feel like I'm a part of that."

"It's a very solitary feeling," said Rebecca del Galdo, 46, of Wheaton, Ill. "You hear the word 'survivor' and that doesn't apply to someone with metastatic breast cancer. It's hard, at least for me, to not take it personally when people say, 'I beat this. I didn't let cancer get me.'"

"I didn't do anything different than anyone else who has had breast cancer. It's just how it happened in my body. It wasn't that I didn't eat right or I didn't exercise enough or I was negative."

She is constantly aware of her illness. "I don't think I go more than five minutes without it at least popping into my head," she said. "And during this month, it really is everywhere."

October is so hard for many metastatic breast cancer patients that a New York survivors' group called SHARE planned a Webinar on "Coping With October" to help them deal with feelings of anger, isolation and depression.

"The pain of October is knowing that you don't fit in with the predominant happy theme of what is portrayed normally in the media," said Shirley Mertz, 68, president of the Metastatic Breast Cancer Network, who lives in suburban Chicago.

That happy theme has grated on others, including author Barbara Ehrenreich, who has written of her own anger at facing the illness amid "our implacably optimistic breast-cancer culture."

Mertz, on the other hand, sees value in the pink movement, praising it for raising awareness and funds and encouraging celebrations for ending treatment for early stage cancer.

But she would like more people to be aware of metastatic breast cancer — although one group in particular, she said, does not want to be.

"We are many times shunned by people who have early stage disease because metastatic disease makes them uncomfortable," she said.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



STEVE KNOPPER/AP

Rose Knopper poses at Riot Fest, a punk-rock extravaganza held in Denver in September. For parents thinking of sharing a concert experience with their kids — don't forget the experience is about their musical enjoyment.

Kids ready for a rock fest?

Dad offers tips on how to make the experience enjoyable

By STEVE KNOPPER
The Associated Press

A few months ago, I had an epiphany that a good father would take his 12-year-old daughter to a super-cool summer rock festival like Coachella or Bonnaroo.

Instead of dragging her halfway across the country to stand in a field in the blazing sun for three days though, I gently nudged her into a practice run — on a Sunday afternoon in mid-September, we went to Riot Fest, a punk-rock extravaganza in the parking lot of Sports Authority Field at Mile High, a 1.5-mile bike ride from our house in Denver.

Rose and I have been to several concerts, but until Riot Fest, they were all geared to her tastes and not mine. We've seen Taylor Swift three times at the local basketball arena. We've seen Paul McCartney (she's a Beatles fan) and Imagine Dragons.

But this time, we carved out a portion of the festival that happened to contain dinosaurs such as Bob Mould and the Violent Femmes. Mould and his super-tight (and super-loud) trio were heavy on Hüsker Dü classics like "Something I Learned Today" and "I Apologize" as well as Sugar's "Changes." He closed by flinging his guitar around and shouting "YEOU!" — but Rose was unimpressed. She spent most of his 45-minute set texting, and shooting video of her shoes on the pavement. I tried to explain why this incomprehensible noise was important — it's the link between the Ramones and Nirvana! — but a bald guy with a guitar isn't the way to reach her.

Next we wandered around the festival, tallying dudes with mohawks (three) and remarking on the

profane slogans on kids' T-shirts. (She was intrigued that Riot Fest would sell "RIOT FEST SUCKS" baseball caps.)

We found ourselves sitting on a haystack listening to a Fort Worth, Texas, indie-rock band called the Unlikely Candidates. This was more Rose's idiom. They were somewhat loud, but smooth and catchy, and the singer had long hair, a goatee and a hunky manner. Unlike Mould, he sang words to "Kubla Khan" and a version of "House of the Rising Sun" so we could hear them.

We checked in on a band called Touché Amoré, and after two seconds of loud guitars and aggressive shrieking, Rose made the universal "let's go" sign.

After two hours, we were dragging. I thought the Violent Femmes might be the cure — Rose likes "Blister in the Sun," and the veteran Milwaukee trio opened with this '80s smash — but their set was clogged with people. Three feet from us, a guy was smoking pot, and that made Rose uncomfortable. By the time we moved to a spot far enough away from the Femmes to feel less claustrophobic, we could barely hear "Add It Up" and "Do It All the Time."

I hoped I could stay through the entire Femmes set, and maybe add on one or two other bands, if not stay for the school-night headliners, The National and Wu-Tang Clan. But by 4:15 p.m., Rose was done. She insisted she's OK with festivals, just not this festival.

"In Lorde, Taylor Swift, Two Door Cinema Club and Imagine Dragons were here at the same time, that would be amazing," she said. "And Ellie Goulding."

That sounds more like Coachella or Bonnaroo, so maybe next year.

And I'll be armed with these tips I learned for taking my pre-teen to a long, grueling but frequently exciting rock festival:

- Build in escape routes. If you've committed to a \$250 festival ticket, plus hotel and airfare, and your kid suddenly decides she's hot and hungry and doesn't like the music, resist the temptation to say, "But the Replacements reunion comes on in 15 minutes!" Be prepared to bail out at any time and, for God's sake, provide plenty of food and water.

- That goes for parking, too. You'll almost certainly be leaving early, so don't land in one of those lots where the attendants surround your car with three or four others. Pay extra for a VIP lot, or park farther away if you have to. Being trapped is the worst.

- This is about your kid's musical enjoyment, not yours. You had your fun in the mosh pit at Lollapalooza 1993. It won't kill you to sit through Imagine Dragons when Beck is playing at the same time. Festivals are for fun, not for spooning out music-history medicine.

- Bring distractions. It sounds crazy that a music festival filled with carnival games, Ferris wheels and at least two bands playing at any given moment could seem boring, but sometimes overstimulation is duller than under-stimulation. Keep those phones charged.

- Whenever possible, avoid falling into the generation gap. Telling funny stories about the old days is one thing, but insisting that your generation is somehow musically superior because you listened to Wham! and she listens to One Direction is just patronizing. Then again, Bob Mould is great, and no whippersnapper can say otherwise.

SPOUSE CALLS

Military wives thrifty way before it was nifty

Thrift shops are now vogue. Racks of used clothes are "vintage." Furniture with a few scrapes and tatty décor items well past their prime are "re-purposed."

It's all the rage to recycle and reuse. It's hip to hang out in thrift shops. But we were ahead of our time, we military spouses. We were buying and selling one another's "shabby chic" misfit curtains when our civilian counterparts were having their drapes custom made at Sears.

We were browsing through the cast-off toys and books from our friends and neighbors when everyone off base was at Kaybee Toys and Walden-books.

When everyone else was saving a few cents at Blue Light Specials, military spouse club thrift shops were raising money in our communities and giving it away to libraries, scout troops and college-bound students.

Blame it on hard economic times.

The rest of America has realized what we've known for years: Thrift shops are treasure troves of the cheap and useful, bazaars of the bizarre and Bohemian — make that "Boho."

Thrift shops on military installations are also centers for community news, and sometimes an offshoot of the local graveyard. You can find items and information you need, and some you didn't know you needed. Take a stroll through your nearest spouse's club emporium and you may find ...

Disney movies for a dime, a glass pitcher just like your grandmother used to have, video games, an oversized wooden spoon and fork suitable for hanging — and a flyer for a base-wide barbecue.

Chunky bracelets from the '80s, clip-on earrings that are even older, a mounted deer's head, a shelf for the garage, miniature secretary desk (complete with pigeonholes) — and a little local gossip.

A Superman costume for Halloween and a plastic pumpkin to go with it, a petticoat, a sari, a dirndl, an obi, a Lazy Susan from the Philippines, wine tasting glasses from Provence, beer mugs from Munich and — and an invitation to Bunsen.

Silverware caddy for a quarter, designer blouse with tags still attached, a replacement carafe for your coffee maker — and advice on where to get your hair cut.

Baskets (with or without handles), bags (cloth, paper and plastic), boxes (fabric, metal or wood), balls (basket, foot, soccer or yarn) — and news about the neighborhood crafters and quilters groups.

Sunglasses, large and round and small and squinty, floppy hat for sitting at the beach, souvenir snow globe from somewhere you've never been — and maybe a conversation with a friend you haven't seen in a while.

Paperback books of every description, bird cages, a hamster cage with exercise wheel, kitty litter boxes, dog kennels, leashes, collars — and the address of a good groomer.

A chubby lime green teapot with a blue lid, Coach handbags (authentic and otherwise), baby clothes, bibs and blankets, tennis racquets, snow skis, poles — and a chance meeting with someone you knew at a previous assignment.

Like the items on the shelves, the thrift store craze is nothing new. It has come and gone before. In a few years boutique thrift shops may fade again, but like Goodwill and the Salvation Army, it's a safe bet that military spouses and our retail outlets to "re-purposed, recycle and re-use" will soldier on.

We need a place to find the necessities of setting up housekeeping at each new assignment. We need a place to jettison our junk before an overseas move. We could make a collective killing on eBay. Instead we will continue donate or consign the clothes our kids have outgrown and the rugs custom made for the homes we've left behind.

One spouse's household purge produces another's priceless find. In our case it also turns out scholarships, new books, school supplies and a great place to run into friends new and old — oh, make that "vintage."

Excerpt from "Spouse Calls: Messages from a Military Life," by Terri Barnes. Reprinted with permission from Elva Resa Publishing.

Terri Barnes is a military wife and mother of three. She writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes. Contact her at spouse-calls@aol.com.



Terri Barnes

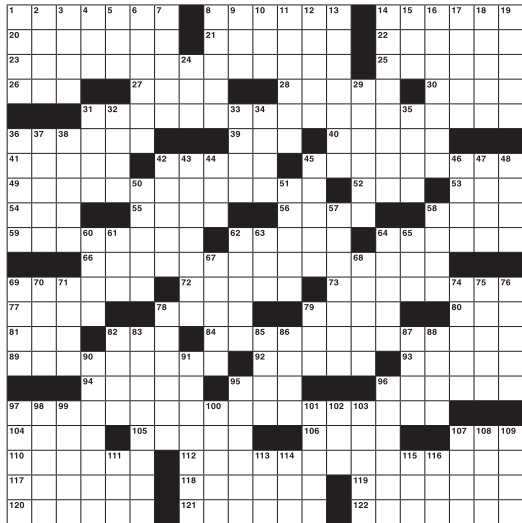
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

INNER WORKINGS

BY PAWEŁ FLUDZINSKI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
1 Short end of the stick
8 1960s dance
14 French port just up the coast from Boulogne
20 Speedily
21 Key of Grieg's only piano concerto
22 Belabor, say
23 *Leading indicator?*
25 Spruce up
26 Sinus specialist, succinctly
36 "American Pie" songwriter
39 Boosts
40 "...Grows in Brooklyn"
41 Shakespearean lament
42 Like a pilot that's working again
45 Locale that made Hillary famous
49 *One who's enthralled, metaphorically*
52 French possessive
53 Response to a 26-Across, perhaps
54 Botanist Gray
55 Dedicated
56 Quod ... demonstration
- 58 First steamship with a planned circumnavigation of the globe
59 Something on a hero, maybe
62 Greeted and seated
64 Pinball or Snoop Dogg
66 *Never*
69 1998 Winter Olympics host
72 Studio behind "Amadeus" and "Platoon"
73 Winning an Oscar, Emmy and Tony, e.g.
77 Activist Brockovich
78 Hypnotist's signal
79 One of a dozen popes
80 Suffix with ball
81 Game warden?
82 U.S.N. rank
84 *Mach ado about nothing*
89 "I wouldn't bet on it!"
92 Top of the Eiffel Tower?
93 Honduras-to-Guatemala dirección
94 Hearing-related
95 Blues rocker Chris
96 Become fixated
97 *Deteriorate rapidly*
104 Make ... dash for ...
105 Went out with
106 Actress Falco
107 Neutronics, symbolically
110 Broccoli-like vegetable
112 *It's hard to find*
- 117 Directs, as a conversation
118 True
119 Transgression
120 Show disdain for, in a way
121 Dinners at which people read at the table
122 Hide
DOWN
1 Sake source
2 Like moose graffiti, for short
3 "Come again?"
4 AT&T Stadium team, on scoreboards
5 Corner key
6 Speedily
7 ... Peace Prize (award, discontinued in 1990)
8 Charges
9 Girl's name that becomes a different girl's name if you switch the first two letters
10 Goalie Howard of U.S.A.'s 2010 and '14 World Cup teams
11 QB Johnny
12 Ping maker
13 "To reiterate ..."
14 Opposite of waste
15 Michigan, in Chicago. Abbr.
16 Hide stuff
17 ...Deton ("Star Wars" droid)
18 World peace, e.g.
19 Atmospheric probe
- 24 "But wait, there's more ..."
29 Best suited
31 Mailroom stamp
32 Like some chardonnays
33 Relinquish
34 Plotting
35 Thousands, in slang
36 Avian mimic
37 What stripes and polka dots do
38 Luau locale
42 Lakers, to Celtics, e.g.
43 It may be limited or late
44 Subject of some '50s-'60s experiments
45 Excellence
46 Tombstone figure
47 Brush material
48 Two-time title hero for Chris Hemsworth
50 Artist Frida renowned for her self-portraits
51 Took back, as lost territory
57 24/7
58 Sunday recess?
60 Unouchable, e.g.
61 Vietnamese one
62 Long-billed wading bird
63 12 months, in Rio
64 Hike
65 Chihuahua cry
66 Fresh, e.g.
68 Go off
69 Gun brand not endorsed by the 111-Den



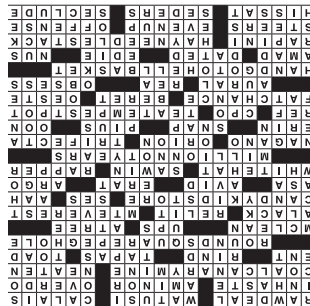
- 70 Play ____
71 Photographic memory, e.g.
74 Thicket
75 Sweetie pie
76 Gets in the game
78 Beethoven's "Hammer-klavier," e.g.
79 curium decision
82 When repeated, party cry
- 83 Weird Al Yankovic, e.g.
85 Third person masculine?
86 Relative of turquoise
87 "...it"
88 International cricket match
90 Ones left holding the bag?
91 Gaps are filled with them
- 95 Fixed, as Easter eggs
96 Michael of "The Great Santini"
97 Like some truths
98 Andrea or Nicolò, in the music world
99 Scruffs
100 Ho precursor
101 Gentle alarms
102 Go on to say
- 103 Some launch sites
107 Half of Mork's farewell
108 La Jolla campus, briefly
109 ... Ball
111 See 59-Down
113 Vane dir.
114 It is there
115 Army E-7: Abbr.
116 Contact info abbr.

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES

It's super (heroes)!

WB/DC announces 10-picture slate

By MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

Warner Bros. has just publicly pulled the trigger. As part of what it calls a "massive expansion" of its superhero film slate, the studio announced that 2016's "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice" will kick off a 10-film slate to be released over four years — a ramping-up that puts Warner Bros./DC Entertainment more in lockstep with the pace of Disney's Marvel Studios.

Among those 10 films, "Wonder Woman" will finally get a standalone movie, in 2017 — with "Batman v. Superman's" Amazon, Gal Gadot, assuming the suit for the longer haul. And getting their own

films the following year will be The Flash (starring Ezra Miller, as opposed to the TV series' Grant Gustin) and Aquaman (with the long-rumored Jason Momoa patrolling the seas).

In an "Avengers"-like film strategy, Warner Bros. also plans to release "Justice League, Part One" in 2017 and the series' "Part Two" two years later, with Zack Snyder at the helm for both.

The expanded-universe slate is part of numerous "investor day" announcements from Warner Bros., including news of three forthcoming LEGO sequels — including a Batman film — as WB hits the bricks hard because of the first film's massive success.

What's ahead

Here is the full slate of its superhero films, with the provision that standalone Batman or Superman films could still be in the offing before 2021:

- "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice," directed by Zack Snyder (2016)
- "Suicide Squad," directed by David Ayer (2016)
- "Wonder Woman" (2017)
- "Justice League Part One," directed by Zack Snyder, with Ben Affleck, Henry Cavill and Amy Adams reprising their roles (2017)
- "The Flash" (2018)
- "Aquaman" (2018)
- "Shazam" (2019)
- "Justice League Part Two" (2019)
- "Cyborg," starring Ray Fisher (2020)
- "Green Lantern" (2020)

Potter spinoff
'at least' a trilogy

The upcoming "Harry Potter" spinoff film "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," is going to be the first in a film trilogy, and more movies might be on the way. The "Fantastic Beasts" movies are based on a story by Potter author J.K. Rowling and will be her screenwriting debut. Release dates are slated for 2016, 2018, 2020 and perhaps beyond.

From the Los Angeles Times

Pitt OK with oldest son seeing 'Fury'

While the World War II drama "Fury" depicts a gruesome look at war through the exploits of a tank crew in Nazi Germany, Brad Pitt feels his 13-year-old son, Maddox, can handle the content.

"He's a World War II buff," Pitt told The Associated Press on Wednesday night on the red carpet for the film's world premiere in Washington, D.C.

Some have criticized the film's stark brutality. Scenes of a soldier's body getting torn up during rapid machine-gun fire or a tank commander decapitated has made the film a little too real.

The newly married father of six contends that when it comes to what's appropriate for his children, he comes from "another generation."

"My father would take us to the drive-in as very young kids and we'd see Clint Eastwood movies and kung fu movies," the 50-year-old actor said.

He added: "The world is a beautiful place, but it's also a very violent place. We talk about it afterward, so I'm not so opposed."



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

Brad Pitt arrived for the premiere of "Fury" in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.

On the subject of family, Pitt was amused at the notion that he and George Clooney had a pact that they would both get married. Pitt married longtime love Angelina Jolie earlier this year, and Clooney tied the knot in September.

Pitt laughed at the theory before responding: "We did it for the right reasons."

From The Associated Press



INVISION FOR BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL/AP

Quvenzhané Wallis, star of the musical film "Annie," read aloud from the children's book, "My Very, Very Busy Day," at the Children's Museum of Manhattan on Wednesday in New York.

'Annie' star Quvenzhané Wallis hopes to become a veterinarian

By ALICIA RANCILIO
The Associated Press

Quvenzhané Wallis says she took singing lessons to prepare for the lead role in a new version of "Annie," opening in theaters in December.

Quvenzhané, who was nominated for a best-actress Oscar when she was 9 for her role in "Beasts of the Southern Wild," said she's always listened to music, especially while on her way to her brothers' basketball games. "My vocal cords got better as I sang in the car, and when I (took) singing lessons, they got even better," the 11-year-old Quvenzhané said in a recent interview.

In this contemporized adaptation of the Broadway musical and the "Little Orphan Annie" comic strip, Annie lives in a foster home instead of an orphanage, "and there are cell phones," Quvenzhané said.

One thing hasn't changed: the presence of Annie's loyal companion, a mutt named Sandy. "Of course we have a Sandy. There's no 'Annie' without a Sandy. We have a little doggie named Marti who is a rescue dog. She's really cute," Quvenzhané said.

She hopes to become a veterinarian.

Quvenzhané wrote the foreword to a new book "My Very, Very Busy Day," the story of a dog and a cat, designed to teach kids about the responsibilities that come with having a pet.

Neil Patrick Harris to host upcoming Oscars ceremony

From wire reports

Neil Patrick Harris, the awards-show veteran who previously hosted the Tonys and the Emmys, is set to take on the Oscars next.

Harris will emcee the Academy Awards on Feb. 22, the Los Angeles Times confirmed after Variety first reported the news. The Academy sent out a statement later Wednesday afternoon with the official announcement. Fans have long called for Harris to get the gig, but producers had previously shied away from hiring him, generally choosing a different host for each ceremony in recent years. Ellen DeGeneres emceed the 2014 Oscars, helping the show to a 14-year ratings high.

Craig Zadan and Neil Meron will produce this year's show for the third year in a row. "We are thrilled to have Neil host the Oscars," the pair said in the statement. "We have known him his entire adult life, and we have watched him explode as a great performer in feature films, television and stage. To work with

him on the Oscars is the perfect storm, all of his resources and talent coming together on a global stage."

'Modern Family' actress dies at 55

Actress Elizabeth Peña, who had roles in "Down and Out in Beverly Hills," "La Bamba," "Lone Star," "Rush Hour" and "The Incredibles," died Tuesday in Los Angeles after a brief illness, according to her manager, Gina Rugolo.

In addition to her film work, Peña had multiple television roles, including a starring role as a Latin American housekeeper in the 1987-88 sitcom "I Married Dora." She had a recurring guest role on "Modern Family," playing the mother of Sofia Vergara's character, and appears regularly on the current crime drama "Matador." She also directed a

few episodes of television shows and was a founding member of the Hispanic Organization of Latin Actors.

Other news

■ **Stephen Collins** is being investigated by Los Angeles sheriff's detectives after a woman reported the actor exposed himself to her in the early 1980s. The department on Wednesday confirmed it opened an investigation Oct. 9 after the woman reported the incident to authorities. The alleged victim was 13 years old when she claims Collins exposed himself to her in West Hollywood, Calif., in 1983.

■ **Model Heidi Klum** and Grammy-winning singer Seal are officially divorced. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mark Juhas finalized the pair's divorce judgment Tuesday.

■ **A "Real Housewives of New Jersey" star** already headed for federal prison on fraud charges has pleaded guilty in an unrelated state case. Giuseppe "Joe" Giudice accepted the plea deal Wednesday in Paterson, N.J.



Peña

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OPINION

Americans embrace fair regulations

By ROSS EISENBREY

It's conventional wisdom in Washington that three decades or more of corporate-sponsored anti-regulatory studies, conferences, advertising and political speeches have convinced the American public that agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have gone too far and should back off in enforcing environmental and safety rules. That so-called wisdom is wrong.

In a new survey of likely voters conducted by Lake Research Partners, 87 percent — with big majorities regardless of political party, gender or geography — said increased enforcement of our national laws and regulations is needed. Despite all of the Big Business rhetoric against regulation ... Americans want rules to protect them against polluted air and water, hazards in the workplace, and consumer products or drugs that might harm them or their families. But they don't just want rules, they want them enforced. And they want that enforcement to be both tough and fair. ...

Too-friendly relationships between big business and the regulators can be disastrous: the failure to control the big banks was largely responsible for the 2008 financial crash and the Great Recession, which threw tens of millions out of work, and millions out of their homes. Have things changed? An investigator for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York secretly recorded audio tapes that reveal the same cozy relationship between regulators and the banks they oversee. A Federal Reserve official is heard describing a financial transaction involving Goldman Sachs as "legal but shady," yet the regulator is deferential to the bank throughout the discussion.

What's worse than the coziness on the beat is no cops at all. There was no fire code in force in West, Texas, at the fertilizer plant that blew up last year, killing 15 people, and OSHA had not inspected the plant in 28 years. EPA last inspected the plant in 2006 and assessed a meager fine of \$2,300 for failing to update its risk management plan. The company responded in 2011 with



WILFREDO LEE/AP

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, center, listens as students explain how they are checking the salinity levels in water samples, on Oct. 9, in Miami Beach, Fla. The city expects to spend up to \$400 million to improve drainage and reduce flooding.

an updated but misleading plan, stating that its chemicals did not pose a risk of fire or explosion, and falsely claiming that the "worse-case scenario" was a 10-minute release of gas or a leak from a broken hose, neither of them harmful to humans.

Cozy relationships between regulators and the regulated, minimal inspections, and weak penalties that fail as deterrents — these are real problems in our enforcement system. Voters across the country are unhappy and want a better approach. ... Surprisingly perhaps, majorities have a favorable view of OSHA, EPA, the Food and Drug Administration and the other key agencies, and no more than one-third have an unfavorable view of any of them. Congress, of course, is far less popular.

When enforcement is done right, the public benefits. Recently, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau cracked down on some of the big banks: Bank of America was hit with \$727 million in fines because of deceptive practices, including charging customers for products they never agreed to; JPMorgan Chase with \$309 million for

illegal credit card practices; and American Express with \$59.5 million in refunds and \$9.6 million in penalties for deceptive and unauthorized billing. Overall, in less than three years since the agency opened its doors, it has saved consumers more than \$3.5 billion in excessive fees and interest.

We need to strengthen, not weaken, enforcement of these laws. That means no more revolving door relationships, and no more culture of deference. It means bigger enforcement budgets for regulatory agencies. ... And it means tougher penalties for corporate wrongdoers, as proposed in the Hide No Harm Act introduced by Sen. Richard Blumenthal. It would make it a crime for corporations to conceal evidence of hazards — and Rep. George Miller's Protect America's Workers Act — which would make it a felony to willfully violate standards and cause a worker's death.

The public wants this accountability and it should be every member of Congress.

Ross Eisenbrey is the vice president of the Economic Policy Institute. He wrote this column for McClatchy-Tribune News Service.

'Yes means yes' should be military standard

By RACHEL E. VANLANDINGHAM

LOS ANGELES
The U.S. military are among the most respected members of society. Yet in the bedroom, we expect much less of them than we do of the 18-year-old who grace California's university campuses.

According to a law signed last month, college students in California must secure "affirmative, conscious, and voluntary" consent from their partner before sex. This measure acknowledges that American universities have a rampant sexual assault problem; almost 20 percent of undergraduate women experience an attempted or actual sexual assault in college.

With almost half of its active-duty ranks under age 25, the U.S. military has been grappling with similarly unacceptable rates of what it calls "unwanted sexual conduct," primarily among its college-age members.

Part of the problem is written into the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Right now, in the military, silence may in fact equal consent. According to Article 120, the "totality of the circumstances" must be considered when sexual assault is reported. Silence and lack of resistance equal consent, unless a victim's silence or pas-

sivity can be attributed to intentional acts by the defendant.

That is, a young servicemember who freezes because of shock at being groped or penetrated, or goes limp because of fear that their drill instructor will flunk the servicemember out of basic training (though he hasn't said so), can be construed as consenting to such unwanted contact.

Furthermore, even if a jury doesn't buy that this passivity actually equals consent, the statute allows the defense to argue that the attacker reasonably mistook the victim's silence as consent.

California ensures that such a mistake can never be construed as reasonable: "[l]ack of protest or resistance does not mean consent, nor does silence mean consent." Period.

The military needs to jettison its "silence may sometimes represent consent" definition in favor of a clear affirmative consent standard like California's. It also needs the California law's reminder that "it is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that he or she has the affirmative consent of the other or others to engage in the sexual activity."

Such clarifications are critically needed in the military environment to counteract the often powerful dynamics of rank, loyalty and teamwork that contribute to an

inherently coercive atmosphere; an atmosphere in which silence should never be a default for consent to sex.

These changes (which need to be approved by Congress) will reverberate well beyond the courtroom. They will help change attitudes via education. The military actually uses the UCMJ's statutory definition of consent — typically worded for awkward word — to train and educate today's young servicemembers as to what is acceptable behavior regarding sex. The deeply disturbing prevalence of sexual assault on our military bases and college campuses demands that expectations regarding sexual behavior shouldn't be left to popular music and the media.

We owe our young men and women in uniform at least as much clarity as college students in California, and to hold them to at least the same reasonable and modern standard. Accountability of offenders is one method of deterrence; prevention through education is even better.

Rachel E. VanLandingham teaches criminal law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. She is a retired Air Force judge advocate — who served as a military prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, appellate defense attorney, nuclear security inspector, and professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy — and vice president of the National Institute of Military Justice. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Help first where Ebola's worse
(The Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

The United States seems to be suffering from extreme exposure to Ebola — not to the virus itself but to the viral speculation about the danger it poses to Americans. It's time to calm down.

Ebola is an intrinsically frightening disease. It's a terrible way to die, and that naturally heightens fears about contracting the disease. But so far, only one person has died of the disease in the U.S., a man who traveled here from Liberia after contracting Ebola in his home country.

The number of people who have been exposed to the disease and are under close watch by health authorities.

But all indications are that the United States is fully equipped to treat those who get Ebola and stop the spread of the disease before it becomes anything close to an epidemic. We have the doctors, the health facilities, the isolation rooms, the protocols to limit contact with patients by health workers and the basic equipment needed to keep them safe.

The real crisis is in Africa, particularly the three West African countries where the disease is currently spreading — Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. ...

We need to be concerned about Ebola but not simply about the possibility that it might immigrate to the United States. It is both a humanitarian and strategic priority to help Africa contain and halt this epidemic, to help her people live in tens of thousands of vulnerable people there.

Pope, justices truly pro-family
(Pensacola, Fla.) News Journal

Pay attention to this moment. This week alone stands as proof evidence of Western Civilization's inevitable march toward freedom and equality. Collectively, we have resisted, fought, even slipped backward at times. But eventually, we are always shown that our faith in the rights of all men is not unfounded.

The New York Times reported Monday that "an assembly of Roman Catholic bishops convened by Pope Francis at the Vatican released a preliminary document on Monday calling for the church to welcome and accept gay men."

In addition to urging acceptance of unmarried couples and those who have been divorced, the document says that gay people have "gifts and qualities to offer to the Christian community," and acknowledges that gay couples can give each other "mutual love and self-sacrifice" and "precious support in the life of the partners."

This is a monumental indication that one of the most ancient, important and stalwart institutions in the world is moving in the philosophical course set forth by Pope Francis, which ultimately is the foundation of the message of Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, this same slide toward greater freedom is playing out in the secular realm here in the United States. Following the Supreme Court's decision last week that effectively made same-sex marriage legal in 30 states, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi relented Monday night and asked the state Supreme Court to decide the issue here in the Sunshine State. After a summer of appealing judicial defeats, Bondi asked the state's highest court to withhold action until the U.S. Supreme Court could decide the issue. ...

It does require the pope's infallibility to realize that secular government has no



CHANNI ANAND/AP

Indian border migrants rest inside Chichi Mata, a Hindu temple turned into a relief camp, 25 miles from Jammu, India, on Oct. 10. Recent fighting in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir between India and Pakistan has killed at least 21 civilians.

business dictating the lives of individuals by oppressing such a basic liberty. Besides, states and churches alike are wise to see that committed couples in any form strengthen society. We need more families, not fewer; more freedom, not less.

Repudiate radical Buddhists
(The New York Times)

On his 79th birthday, in July, the Dalai Lama appealed to Buddhist extremist groups in Myanmar and Sri Lanka to stop instigating attacks against Muslim minorities that have killed scores. Instead, in an affront to Buddhism's core message of compassion, leaders of those groups announced an alliance to make common cause against Muslims.

"The time has come to ally internationally," Galagaddala the Ganasara, the leader of the radical Sri Lankan Buddhist group Bodu Bala Sena, announced at a convention held in Colombo last month. The guest of honor was Ashin Wirathu, a Buddhist radical whose picture Time magazine put on its July 1 cover as "The Face of Buddhist Terror." The government of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa ignored pleas by Sri Lankan Muslim and Christian civil groups, fearful of more anti-Muslim violence in their country, to deny Wirathu a visa. Granting Wirathu a visa can only reinforce the fears of many Muslims that the government backs Bodu Bala Sena.

Last week, Ganasara claimed he was in discussions "at a high level" with the right-wing Indian Hindu group Rashtriya Swayam Sevak to form what he called a "Hindu-Buddhist peace zone" in South Asia. A Rashtriya Swayam Sevak spokesman, Ram Madhav, promptly denied that there were any such discussions. But Madhav, now general secretary of India's governing Bharatiya Janata Party, has written comments sympathetic to Bodu Bala Sena and Wirathu's group 969 in Myanmar on his Facebook and Twitter accounts.

It is folly for the governments of Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka, President Thein Sein of Myanmar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in India, or their political allies, to give even the appearance of tolerating these Islamophobic groups. ... They should condemn this mad alliance before it can spread further.

Nobels can aid Kashmir peace
(The Kansas City (Mo.) Star)

The Nobel Peace Prizes recently awarded to a 17-year-old Pakistani girl and an Indian man should inspire the leaders of their countries to end their decades-long, dangerous struggle over Kashmir.

The time to find a peaceful future for Kashmir is now.

Violence between Pakistan and India along the disputed Kashmir border has escalated lately into the worst fighting between the nuclear-armed countries in more than a decade, causing U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to say he "deplores the loss of lives and the displacement of civilians on both sides."

Such statements are fine, but action is more important.

One Nobel recipient is Malala Yousafzai, of Pakistan, a fearless advocate of girls' education who was shot by a Taliban gunman. The other is Kailash Satyarthi, of India, who works to end child labor and to free children from trafficking. Both have provided better models than their countries' leaders, who can't seem to end their battle over beautiful Kashmir. Since Pakistan became a separate nation in 1947, the year India achieved independence, the countries have fought several wars, at least two of them over Kashmir. In 1999, India and Pakistan came to the edge of a nuclear conflict over this dispute.

The future of Kashmir ... has tended to get shoved off the radar screen. The result has been a simmering conflict, disrupting the lives of Kashmiris and providing opportunities for extremists to make trouble.

The latest violence has struck heavily populated civilian areas. Indian and Pakistani officials have been blustering about who is to blame and who won't talk to whom until this or that happens. ... But neither side is innocent, and both need outside help to extinguish the violence.

The latest fighting comes after terrible summer flooding in the region. The government of Jammu and Kashmir is now responding to that dire situation by ordering construction of prefabricated houses for families left homeless. Humanitarian concerns alone should drive officials to follow the examples of the newest Nobel laureates and work for peace.

Instead, the people of Kashmir get wars and rumors of wars but little assistance from the world community, which would pay an atrocious price if the latest outbreak escalated into a nuclear conflict.

Obama fails 'better off' test
(The Oklahoman)

President Barack Obama has always seen himself as an agent of change, a la Ronald Reagan. His goal was to do for progressive policies what Reagan had done for conservatism.

Thus it was no surprise that he parroted a Reagan trope in recently asking the question of whether Americans are better off today than when he took office — and then answering his own question by concluding that "the country is definitely better off than we were when I came into office."

For Reagan, it was a campaign strategy drawn as a weapon against Jimmy Carter in 1980. Are you better off, he asked voters, than you were four years ago? ...

"By every economic measure," Obama told college students the other day, "we are better off than when I took office." So not only has this president adopted the Reagan line (even crediting Reagan), he's turned it into yet another example of repeated, robotic rhetoric in the endless campaign speeches made by a man "who is not running for anything except the exit," in the words of Caroline Baum, a former Bloomberg News columnist.

Baum correctly notes that Obama has set a low bar for economic measurements, as did Reagan in a sense. When the former took office in 2009, the longest recession since World War II was at its nadir. Reagan, inaugurated in 1981, took the reins at a time when Carter's legacy had produced a terrible economy. Both Reagan and Obama inherited bad economies. How could people not be better off?

The problem is that Obama's stewardship set in motion a sluggish recovery. Unemployment has fallen, but the labor participation rate has dropped to a low not seen since 1979. Yet that was during the Carter administration. Obama's Department of Labor says nearly 100,000 jobless workers have given up. ...

Obama doesn't mention this when he's in his "Are you better off?" mode. To bolster a weak argument, the president repeatedly compares today's numbers with those of January 2009. Therefore, writes Baum, "Almost anything appears better compared to the worst recession since the Great Depression." ...

The man's got skills. We'll hand him that. But who's really better off today?

AIG shareholders' suit myopic
(Los Angeles Times)

Imagine you've taken a swimmer who's recklessly gotten caught in a rip tide, only to be saved by a boater who was busily helping other struggling swimmers to shore. Would you complain if the boater charged you a big fee? Maybe. But you almost certainly wouldn't sue the boater for not offering help sooner.

Some shareholders in American International Group have no such compunction. In a federal lawsuit now being heard in Washington, they accuse the U.S. government of withholding the low-cost financing AIG needed to overcome its cash-flow problems, even though the government was providing that help to other troubled Wall Street firms. They also claim that the bailout eventually extended to the company was so punitive to them and AIG that it violated the Constitution.

Although a federal judge found the shareholders' claims "not ripe for a lawsuit," it's hard to ignore the overpowering aroma of hubris. As costly as the bailout was to shareholders, they almost certainly would have been left with nothing had AIG not been rescued. Banking analysts say AIG was doomed by the housing-backed securities derivatives it held after the subprime mortgage meltdown, and it couldn't have avoided bankruptcy had the government not lent it \$85 billion the day after Lehman Brothers' catastrophic collapse in September 2008.

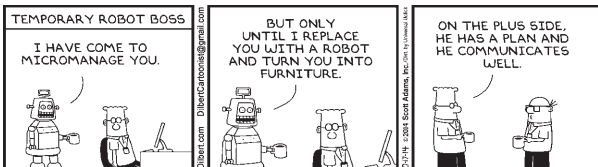
The bigger issue highlighted by the lawsuit, though, is the failure of federal officials and bank regulators were acting without a script as they scrambled to prevent financial companies from tumbling like dominoes and deepening the recession. In the heat of the crisis, they had to make judgment calls about which institutions were saving the country and which weren't. That discretion is at the heart of the shareholders' lawsuit.

Ultimately, the better solution is to let failing financial companies fail. That means having mechanisms in place that discourage these companies from becoming "too big to fail" and that the economy depends on their survival.

Frazz



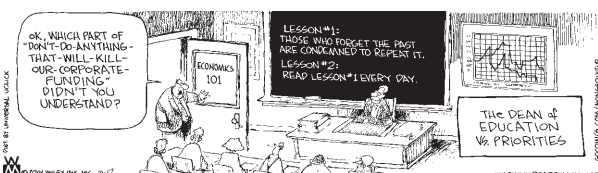
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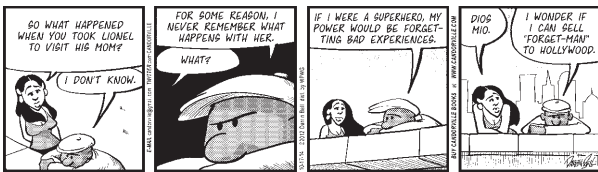
Pearls Before Swine



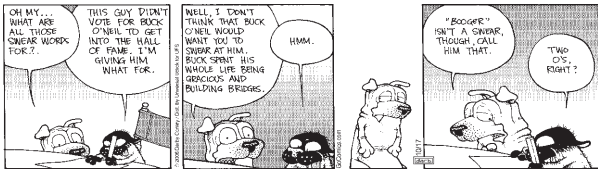
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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37	38	39					40					
41						42	43				44	45
46						47				48		
49						50				51		

ACROSS

- 1 Burst
- 4 Put an end to
- 8 In pre-swan mode
- 12 Listener
- 13 Zilch
- 14 Entreaty
- 15 Rapacious one
- 17 Blue hue
- 18 Filly's mom
- 19 Shampoo label verb
- 20 Marble cake pattern
- 22 Pull an all-nighter
- 24 Semi-fortnight
- 25 Laws
- 29 Melody
- 30 Layered rock
- 31 Knock
- 32 Gild the lily, maybe
- 34 Bigfoot's cousin
- 35 Sword handle
- 36 Made on a loom
- 37 Bottom
- 40 Creche trio
- 41 Eternally
- 42 Dear
- 46 Corduroy ridge
- 47 Agenda entry
- 48 "Born in the -"
- 49 Decue defeater
- 50 Not at one's desk
- 51 Driver's license datum

DOWN

- 1 Vm and vigor
- 2 Scull tool
- 3 Opening night
- 4 Entangle
- 5 Carry
- 6 Lennon's lady
- 7 Part of MPH
- 8 Productive period
- 9 Singer Campbell
- 10 Meadows
- 11 Harvard rival
- 16 Unlit
- 19 Fight the clock
- 20 Trade
- 21 "Dead Poets Society" director
- 22 Macrame, for one
- 23 Hinge (on)
- 25 Dr. McGraw
- 26 Prior
- 27 London gallery
- 28 "Wheel of Fortune" option
- 30 Wield a swizzle stick
- 33 Number of days in June
- 34 Boo-Boo's mentor
- 36 Eccentric
- 37 Salamander
- 38 State with certainty
- 39 Strike out
- 40 Arizona city
- 42 Sch. group
- 43 Uncooked
- 44 Work with
- 45 Stan Getz's instrument

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	L	O	C	G	O	A	G	A	G	A
L	A	M	A	R	A	N	A	N	E	W
E	V	E	R	E	T	A	M	A	L	L
W	A	N	I	N	G	L	U	T		
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T	H	R	U		S	U	M	A	M	E
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W	H	E	Y		N	I	B		A	N
A	O	N	E		E	L	L		D	A
R	E	T	D		R	O	E		Y	O

10-17

CRYPTOQUIP

PVC CQPCLPXZQUCQP-NXYCO

KXNTC KVVXQQCT YVEDCO

YQZIIICPY XTT OXW PEOXW.

PVCW DCLC PEPXT C! KTZYI.

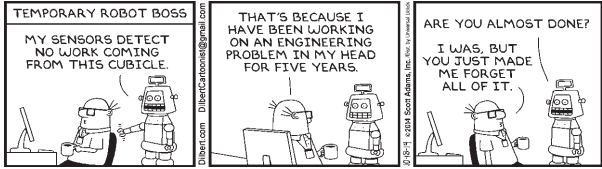
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN PEOPLE'S WRIST BONES GET BADLY DAMAGED, PHYSICIANS MAY WANT THEM TO TRY CARPALS THERAPY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals L

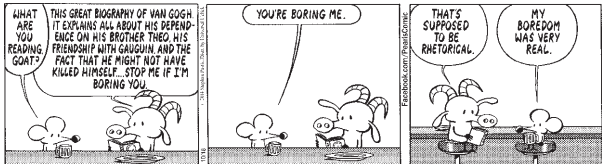
Frazz



Dilbert



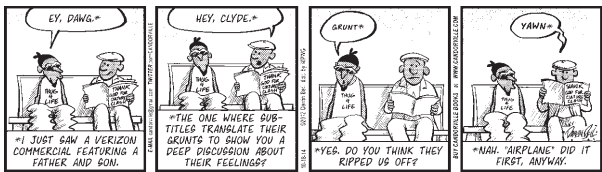
Pearls Before Swine



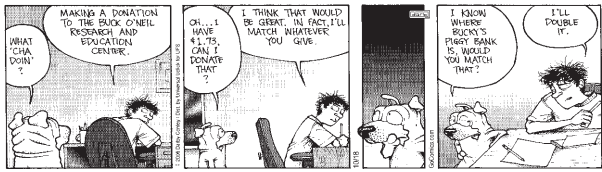
Non Sequitur



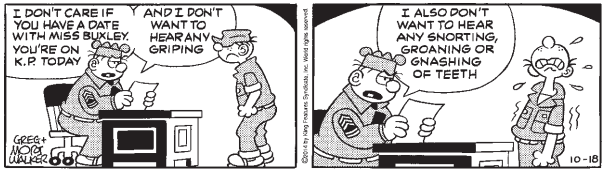
Candorville



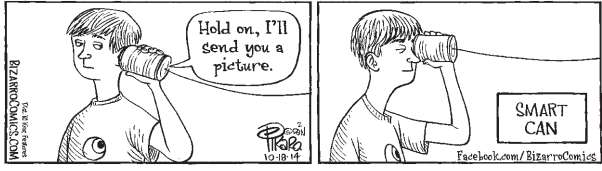
Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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48					49					50			
51					52					53			
54					55					56			

ACROSS

- 1 Frisbee, e.g.
- 2 Analagetic target
- 3 Sea eagle
- 4 Tramcar contents
- 5 Implement
- 6 Recording
- 7 Past
- 8 Carbon compound
- 9 Under the weather
- 10 Group of workers
- 11 Choose
- 12 Exploit
- 13 Supermarket freebie
- 14 "... bird in a cage"
- 15 Hilo hello
- 16 Word said twice before "hallelujah"
- 17 Renter
- 18 Current measure
- 19 Born
- 20 "Humbug!"
- 21 Meerschaum, e.g.
- 22 Conger or moray
- 23 Bygone automaker
- 24 Historic time
- 25 Director
- 26 Premiering

DOWN

- 1 Ham's dad
- 2 Junior
- 3 Former attorney
- 4 Reverberate
- 5 Stick with a kick
- 6 "Dracula" author
- 7 Stoker
- 8 Unrivaled
- 9 Incite
- 10 Cat call
- 11 Texting devices
- 12 Wood shaver
- 13 Greek consonant
- 14 Perched
- 15 Hearty quaff
- 16 Calendar abbr.
- 17 Buck's mate
- 18 Blunder
- 19 Coloring agent
- 20 Wobble
- 21 Flourishing
- 22 Nuisance
- 23 Press
- 24 Huff and puff
- 25 Lab burner
- 26 Crazy
- 27 Wonka's creator
- 28 Old woman's home?
- 29 Sphere

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	O	P	S	T	O	P	U	G	L	Y
E	A	R	N	O	N	E	P	L	E	A
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	T	E	A
	M	A	R	E		R	I	N	S	E
S	W	I	R	L		C	R	A	M	
W	E	E	K		P	R	E	C	E	P
A	I	R		S	H	A	L	E		R
P	R	E	T	T	I	F	Y		Y	E
			H	I	L	T		W	O	V
N	A	D	I	R		M	A	G	I	
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W	E	L	T		T	A	S	K		U
T	R	E	Y		A	W	A	Y		S

10-18

CRYPTOQUIP

CGQ TFPKWNCV CGSC NPITSYU

ISJQV SYK VQMMV SFQ

TFEISFEMU ISCCFQVVQV. EC'V

MEJQ VQFCS, VPFCs.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ENTERTAINMENT-BASED CABLE CHANNEL SHOWED SNIPPETS ALL DAY TODAY. THEY WERE TOTAL! E! CLIPS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals S

BUSINESS/WEATHER

HBO aims to cut cord, stand on its own

BY MAE ANDERSON
AND MICHAEL LIEDTKE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Next year HBO is cutting the cord and selling its popular streaming video service HBO Go as a stand-alone product as more Americans choose to watch the Web, not the TV. Viewers longing to see “Game of Thrones,” “True Detective” and “Veep” will no longer have to pay big bucks for cable and satellite contracts. So, is this the end of

pay-TV as we know it?

“HBO and ESPN are the two main reasons why people have cable and satellite TV,” said Forrester analyst James McQuivey. “The whole industry has eyed them for years, nervous that one day they would decide to do exactly what (HBO) said they’ll do in 2015. We don’t know until we see pricing and packaging how rapidly this will force a change in the way pay TV operators work, but it will definitely force a change.”

Millions already have canceled pay-TV subscriptions — up to 10 million U.S. households are currently broadband-only. And about 45 percent of Americans stream television shows at least once per month, according to research firm eMarketer. That number is expected to increase to 53 percent, or 175 million people, by 2018 it says.

Video streamers aren't falling behind on entertainment — so-called “cord-cutters” watched about 100 hours of video per

month during the first half of this year, estimates the Internet research firm Sandvine. The trend accelerated as Netflix Inc.'s Internet video service expanded into original programming and bought the rights to show popular cable network shows such as "Breaking Bad" and "American Horror Story."

Amazon.com Inc., Yahoo Inc. and Google's YouTube also offer Internet-only series as alternatives to pay TV.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.510	\$3.709	\$3.884	\$4.001
Change in price	-9.3 cents	-8.6 cents	-8.6 cents	-3.5 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.522	\$4.797	\$4.563
Change in price	--	-7.7 cents	-2.9 cents	-7.5 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.679	\$4.072	\$3.971
Change in price	--	-8.6 cents	-0.3 cents	-3.5 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.830	--
Change in price	--	--	-8.6 cents	--
Belgium	--	\$3.952	--	\$3.976
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.097	\$4.718*
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
Italy	\$4.201	--	--	\$4.277
Change in price	no change	--	no change	--

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.669	--	\$3.789
Change in price	--	-8.0 cents	--	-3.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.359	--	--	\$3.789
Change in price	-3.0 cents	--	--	-3.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.329	--	\$3.709	\$3.839
Change in price	-10.0 cents	--	-8.0 cents	-3.0 cents
Guam	\$3.319**	\$3.519	\$3.699	--
Change in price	-10.0 cents	-9.0 cents	-8.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Oct. 18-24

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 15, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	-173.45 16,141.74
Nasdaq composite	-11.85 4,215.32
Standard & Poor's 500	-15.21 1,862.49
Russell 2000	10.95 1,072.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 17)	\$1.3098
Dollar buys (Oct. 17)	€0.7635
British pound (Oct. 17)	\$1.5171
Japanese yen (Oct. 17)	105.00
South Korean won (Oct. 17)	1,033.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6011/€0.6245
Canada (Dollar)	1.1239
China (Yuan)	6.2626
Denmark (Krone)	5.8408
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
France (Euro)	\$1.2746/€0.7845
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7559
Hungary (Forint)	241.55
Israel (Shekel)	3.7076
Japan (Yen)	105.39
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2889
Norway (Krone)	6.6039
Philippines (Peso)	45.05
Poland (Zloty)	3.3232
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7513
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2752
South Korea (Won)	1,033.02
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9645
Thailand (Baht)	32.49

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies: to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	2.99

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE

**SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Friday's US temperatures

[illegible]



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Autos for Sale - Japan 146

Toyota, Crown - Majesta, 1999
\$4500.00 Metallic black 1999 Toyota Crown Majesta for sale on Voston AS. \$4500.00 BEST OFFER. Motivated seller willing to negotiate JCI until March 6, 2015 and will pass next inspection w/ ease. Approx. 118,000 miles. V8 engine, built-in GPS system, 6 disc CD changer, backseat drink cooler, LED headlights, air suspension, 15" rims, and more. Please contact for additional info. Call or text James @ 060-9684-2680 or email jah11mc@dailymc@gmail.com, or dailymc@gmail.com.

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Weekend peek

D-I teams battle for playoff position

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The race for the fourth and final spot in the DODDS-Europe Division I football postseason has come down to the final weekend. Even the top three, while locked into the postseason, could see their postseason fortunes change.

The three season-finale games — Ramstein at Vilsack, Kaiserslautern at Lakenheath and Wiesbaden at Patch, all set for Saturday — will determine the last team into the playoffs and arrange the final four into a pair of Oct. 25 semifinals.

Here's where the six Division I teams stand entering the final weekend:

Wiesbaden Warriors (4-0)

Status: Clinched playoff berth
Final game: Saturday at Patch
Best-case scenario: They complete their undefeated regular season with a win over Patch and move onto a home-field semifinal against a losing team they've already beaten.

Worst-case scenario: They lose to Patch and Ramstein defeats Vilsack, forcing a three-way tie for first place and putting the Warriors at risk of slipping to third on DODDS-Europe's complicated point-spread-based three-way tiebreaker system.

Patch Panthers (3-1)

Status: Clinched playoff berth
Final game: Saturday vs. Wiesbaden

Best-case scenario: They knock off the defending champs, knotting the two teams' records at 4-1. Vilsack upsets Ramstein, taking the Royals out of the first place picture. The Panthers take the top seed by virtue of their head-to-head defeat of Wiesbaden.

Worst-case scenario: They lose to Wiesbaden and Ramstein beats Vilsack. The Panthers take the third seed and head to a semifinal at Ramstein, where they lost 45-0 in the regular season.



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Donta Morris picks up a few yards Oct. 10 at Wiesbaden, Germany. Wiesbaden went on to win 20-14 in overtime. The two teams have already clinched playoff spots. But seeding will be determined based on the outcome of three games Saturday.

Ramstein Royals (3-1)

Status: Clinched playoff berth
Final game: Saturday at Vilsack

Best-case scenario: They beat Vilsack and Wiesbaden defeats Patch. Though this would award Wiesbaden the top seed outright, it would give Ramstein the second-place tiebreaker edge and a home semifinal against Patch.

Worst-case scenario: They lose to Vilsack and Patch defeats Wiesbaden. This would slot them squarely in third behind the Panthers and Warriors. A Ramstein win coupled with a Patch win would create a three-way tie that could also potentially put the Royals in third.

Vilsack Falcons (1-3)

Status: Fighting for the fourth seed and hoping for the best
Final game: Saturday vs.

Ramstein

Best-case scenario: They beat Ramstein and Kaiserslautern loses to Lakenheath. That would put the Falcons in fourth place outright and send them to the semifinals. Alternatively, a loss to Ramstein coupled with a Lakenheath win over Kaiserslautern would create a three-way tie for fourth place and invoke the tiebreaker.

Worst-case scenario: Kaiserslautern beats Lakenheath. That would spell the end of Vilsack's playoff hopes, as the Raiders would trump the Falcons in a head-to-head tiebreaker.

Kaiserslautern Raiders (1-3)

Status: Win and they're in
Final game: Saturday at Lakenheath

Best-case scenario: They beat Lakenheath. That gives them

the final playoff spot, whether outright or in a head-to-head tiebreaker over Vilsack.

Worst-case scenario: They lose to Lakenheath and Vilsack defeats Ramstein. That would give the Falcons the playoff berth outright.

Lakenheath Lancers (0-4)

Status: Need a win and a lot of help

Final game: Saturday vs. Kaiserslautern

Best-case scenario: They beat Kaiserslautern and Ramstein beats Vilsack. That would create the chaotic three-way tie that is Lakenheath's only possible path to the postseason.

Worst-case scenario: They lose and suffer their second consecutive winless season.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

Weekend schedule

Football

Saturday

Ramstein at Vilsack
Kaiserslautern at Lakenheath
Wiesbaden at Patch

Division II

Quarterfinals

Aviano (8) at Ansbach (1)
SHAPE (7) at Hohenfels (2)
Rota (6) at Naples (3)
Vicenza (5) at Bitburg (4)

Volleyball

Saturday

Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern, Hohenfels at Vilsack
Ramstein, BFA at Patch
Ansbach at Bitburg
SHAPE, Menwith Hill, Alconbury at Lakenheath
AFNORTH, Brussels at Baumholder
Ansbach at Bitburg
AOSR at Aviano
Naples at Florence
Marymount at Signonella

Tennis

Friday

ISB at Brussels

Saturday

SHAPE at Lakenheath
AFNORTH at Alconbury
Kaiserslautern at Bitburg
AOSR vs. Aviano
Ramstein, Ansbach at Vilsack
Wiesbaden, Hohenfels at Patch

Cross country

Saturday

Ramstein, Wiesbaden, Hohenfels, Frankfurt International at Vilsack
Kaiserslautern, Ansbach, BFA, Bitburg, Baumholder at Patch
Cobham at Lakenheath
AFNORTH, Brussels, ISB, St. John's at SHAPE
Vicenza, Florence at Aviano
Marymount, AOSR, Signonella at Naples

Games of the week

Tennis

Wiesbaden, Hohenfels at Patch

Saturday

Last fall, Wiesbaden ace Jade Sullivan and Patch counterpart Marina Fortun met in a singles match on Oct. 19. The resulting match was among the most competitive of the year, European tournament included. The sophomore Sullivan won 7-5, 5-7, 6-2, and went on to earn her first European championship. Fortin finished third, denied a title rematch by emerging star Anouchka Laurent Josi of International School of Brussels.

Sullivan and Fortin will meet again in a singles match, this time on Oct. 18. The match is expected to be among the most competitive of the year. The winner will enter the postseason as a favorite to win the European title. The loser might not get their rematch with emerging star Marianna Kyriou of SHAPE lurking close behind.

Volleyball

Naples at Florence

Saturday

A lot of DODDS-Europe Division III teams are difficult to guess until the European tournament arrives. Florence is taking that to an extreme this fall.

The team started its season with four losses, including three to Vicenza and one to Aviano. But then it evened that record all at once, registering two wins apiece over Marymount and American Overseas School of Rome in one marathon Saturday.

That impressive multi-match showing puts Florence in the Division III title conversation alongside the likes of Brussels and Signonella, the latter of which will play in its regular-season final Oct. 25.

Before that, another formidable measuring stick awaits.

Naples has cruised to an 11-1 record and hasn't taken a loss since a four-set setback to Aviano on Sept. 20. Last weekend, the Wildcats avenged that loss to the Saints and dispatched the same Vicenza team that has given Florence fits.



Follow the action

Gregory Broome has the latest on Twitter
@broomestripes

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Weekend peek

Regular season?
More like semifinal

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

They're the last two teams vying for the one remaining Far East Division I title game berth and possibly host rights, with enough tiebreaker scenarios to give even the most experienced football numbers crunchers a splitting headache.

Defending DODDS Japan champion Kinnick visits last year's D-I runner-up Kadena, with kickoff at 3 p.m. Saturday at Kadena Air Base. In addition to showcasing the Pacific's top two running backs, it amount to a de facto playoff game.

Here's the simplified version of the tiebreaker scenarios:

■ For Kinnick, it's academic: win and host defending champion Kubasaki. The Red Devils also advance to the title game, at Kubasaki, if they lose by four points or fewer.

■ If Kadena beats Kinnick by seven or more, Kadena hosts Kubasaki. If Kadena beats Kinnick by five or six, Kadena travels to Kubasaki for the championship game.

Kubasaki is in no matter what; just a question of whether the Dragons will host or be the visitor in the D-I title game on Nov. 8.

All that mumbo-jumbo wasn't front and center for the Red Devils and Panthers as they prepared for Saturday's showdown, coaches said.

"We haven't talked with the kids about it," Kinnick coach Dan Joley said. "But they know what's at stake. We view this as a playoff. Win and we're in, lose and we go home."

"You have to take that into account, but what we're really trying to focus on is polishing all the mistakes we made in our previous game," a 15-8 home loss to Kubasaki last week, Kadena coach Sergio Mendoza said.

It figures to be a battle in the trenches, as both lines average well in excess of 200 pounds and each team possessing at least two linemen weighing 250 pounds or more.

They'll lead the way for the top ground gainers within DODDS Pacific thus far this season. Kinnick junior Dre Paylor, with a Pacific-leading 1,465 yards and 18 touchdowns on 133 carries, goes up against Kadena senior Justin Sego, with 999 yards and eight touchdowns on 110 attempts.

Using the Red Devils' 22-18 home win on Sept. 13 over Kubasaki, Joley said he expects a "hard-fought, physical" game as is the case whenever Kinnick tees it up against any Okinawa team.

"We're expecting the same kind of team (in Kadena), a detail-oriented, well-coached, physical team," Joley said.

Kadena's coaches are all too aware, Mendoza said, that Kinnick is "in the same situation as us; they have to win to move on. So, I'm expecting a tough game. They're coached well and they're good kids."

Among Friday's two DODDS Korea games, defending Far East Division II champion Daegu takes its best shot at a possible first unbeaten season in school history when the Warriors visit Seoul American; kickoff is at 6 p.m., as is Osan's game at Humphreys.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena running back Justin Sego leads the Panthers against Kinnick on Saturday with the outcome determining which team will play Kubasaki for the Far East D-I championship.

Game of the week

Football: Kinnick (5-1)
vs. Kadena (3-2)

When — 3 p.m. Saturday.

Where — Habu Field, Ryukyu Middle School, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

What — Final inter-district football game of the Pacific high school season, one with heavy implications in the chase for the second berth and possibly host rights to the Far East Division I title game Nov. 8. Depending on who wins and by how much, either team could end up as the visitor or host; the other would be shut out, since defending champion Kubasaki has already clinched a berth.

Players to watch — The game showcases the two most prolific DODDS Pacific running backs, Kinnick junior Dre Paylor (1,465 yards, 18 touchdowns) and Kadena senior Justin Sego (999 yards, eight touchdowns).

Also — If Kinnick wins by any margin, the Red Devils host Kubasaki on Nov. 8. A Kadena win by four points or fewer would send Kinnick back to Okinawa next month to play for the title at Kubasaki. A Kadena win by five or six means Kubasaki hosts the Panthers for the title. If Kadena wins by seven or more, the Panthers host the Dragons.

Schedule

Football

Friday

Osan at Humphreys
Daegu at Seoul American
American School In Japan at Zama

Saturday

Kinnick at Kadena
Guam semifinals
Father Duenas vs. John F. Kennedy
Okkodo vs. George Washington
Monday
Singapore American at Kubasaki

Cross country

Friday-Saturday

Asia-Pacific Invitational Meet on Guam

Saturday

DODDS Japan championship at Tama Hills Recreation Center

Wednesday

Okinawa all-island finals at Bolo Point course, Cape Zampa

Girls volleyball

Friday

Seisen at ASU
Seoul Foreign at Yongsan, Taejon
Christian at Seoul American

Friday-Saturday

Kinnick at E.J. King, Yokota at M.C. Perry, Zama at Edglen

Saturday

Seoul Foreign at Osan, Daegu at Taejon Christian, Humphreys at Yongsan

Boys volleyball

Friday

Seoul Foreign at Yongsan, Taejon
Christian at Seoul American

Saturday

Seoul Foreign at Osan, Daegu at Taejon Christian, Humphreys at Yongsan

Tennis

Friday-Saturday

Kinnick at E.J. King, Yokota at M.C. Perry, Zama at Edglen

ASU at Seisen (girls), ASU at St. Mary's (boys)
Seoul Foreign at Korea International, Taejon Christian at Seoul American, Chadwick at Humphreys

Other key events

Cross country: DODDS Japan championship

10 a.m. Saturday, Tama Hills Recreation Center, Tokyo

With Yokota junior Daniel Galvin recuperating from shin splits, the boys race could be a wide-open one, with possibly Zama's Kai Cordrey standing to benefit, as might Jerry Lotz of Kinnick or Yokota's Marquis Cooley. Erin Stonebarger and Cassie Berger of Kinnick loom as favorites in the girls race.

Cross country: Okinawa all-island finals

4 p.m. Wednesday, Cape Zampa (Bolo Point)

While Kadena junior Hunter Fienec, sporting the Pacific's second-best time (16:46) behind Galvin (16:08), went unbeaten in the regular season and sophomore Wren Renquist lost just once, Kubasaki is starting to narrow the gap with the Panthers in terms of time. The Dragons girls should be favored, while the Panthers boys might prevail, but narrowly.

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College GameDay



ANN HEISENFELT/AP

Player to watch

David Cobb RB | Minnesota

The senior has been added to the 2014 Maxwell Award Watch List. The trophy goes to the most outstanding collegiate football player. He has 819 yards rushing and has run for 2,086 yards on 402 carries in 27 games. His 136.5 yards per game average is seventh-best in the nation. The Gophers are 8-1 in games when Cobb has surpassed 100 yards rushing, and the Gophers are 2-0 in the Big Ten for the first time since 2004 as they face their next conference test against Purdue.

Purdue at Minnesota
6 p.m. Saturday, CDT; 1 a.m. Sunday,
Japan/Korea, AFN-Xtra



JOE RAYMOND/AP

Notre Dame running back Tarean Folston, left, scores a touchdown against North Carolina last week. The No. 5 Fighting Irish face No. 2 Florida State on Saturday. Notre Dame is 1-16 overall against top-five teams dating back to 1998, and hasn't been a No. 2 team since 1990.

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Louisville	3	2	5
Boston College	1	4	2
Syracuse	2	2	4
Wake Forest	0	2	4
NC State	0	4	4
Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
Virginia	2	0	4
Georgia Tech	2	0	4
Duke	1	1	5
Virginia Tech	1	1	4
Pittsburgh	1	1	4
Miami	1	2	4
North Carolina	1	2	4

Game of the week: No. 2 Florida State vs. No. 5 Notre Dame. This sort of ACC game — the Irish are league members for all sports except football — figures to be the Seminoles' biggest on-the-field obstacle to another undefeated season. This matchup with senior playoff implications marks Notre Dame's first true road game and matches two playmaking quarterbacks in the Irish's Everett Golson and Heisman winner James Winston of Florida State.

Inside the numbers: Half the 14-team league is ranked among the nation's top 27 total defenses — and league newcomer Louisville boasts the best "D" in the Bowl Subdivision, allowing about 230 total yards per game.

Player to watch: Clemson QB Cole Stoudt. Stoudt lost his starting job to freshman DeShaun Watson, but came off the bench last week, then led the Tigers past Louisville and into the national rankings. He's back under center this week against Boston College.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
Michigan St.	2	0	5
Ohio St.	1	0	4
Rutgers	1	1	5
Maryland	1	1	4
Michigan	1	2	4
Penn St.	1	2	4
Indiana	0	2	3
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
Minnesota	2	0	5
Iowa	2	0	5
Northwestern	2	1	3
Nebraska	1	1	5
Wisconsin	1	1	4
Purdue	1	2	3
Illinois	1	2	3

Game of the week: Rutgers (5-1, 1-1) at Ohio State (4-1, 1-0). The Scarlet Knights haven't been the pushovers anyone expected in their first Big Ten season, and they easily could have been undefeated had it not been for a missed tackle on a late drive against Penn State. The contest features two of the nation's top five quarterbacks in passing efficiency, J.T. Barrett of Ohio State ranks third at 186.3 and Gary Nova of Rutgers is fifth at 170.9.

Inside the numbers: Maryland has scored at least 24 points in all six games this season, the first time that has happened in the program's history. They are averaging 34.7 points, tied for the fourth-highest total in the Big Ten.

Players to watch: RB Akeem Hunt. Purdue put up 31 points against Michigan State, the first Big Ten team to do that since 2011 as Hunt ran for three TDs. Purdue faces Minnesota on Saturday.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All
Baylor	3	0	6
Oklahoma St.	3	0	5
Kansas St.	2	0	4
Oklahoma	2	1	5
West Virginia	2	1	4
TCU	1	1	4
Kansas	1	2	4
Texas Tech	0	3	2
Iowa St.	0	3	2

Game of the week: No. 14 Kansas State at No. 11 Oklahoma. The eight-time Big 12 champion Sooners (5-1, 2-1 Big 12) can't afford a second loss if they want to be serious contenders for a spot in the new four-team college playoff. Kansas State (4-1, 2-0), whose loss was to Auburn, is playing its first conference game against a winning team. The Sooners' first home game in more than a month is coach Bob Stoops' 11th meeting against K-State coach Bill Snyder.

Inside the numbers: Kansas LB Ben Henney had 3½ tackles for loss in a loss last week to Oklahoma State. He is the league leader with 1.67 TFLs per game.

Player to watch: Oklahoma State junior Tyreek Hill. He has returned a kickoff for touchdown in consecutive games, the first player in school history to do that. He also rushed 38 times for 196 yards and caught 18 passes for 183 yards.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All
Oregon	2	1	5
Stanford	2	1	4
Oregon St.	1	1	4
Washington	1	1	5
California	2	2	4
Washington St.	1	3	2
South			
Conf.	W	L	All
Southern Cal	3	1	4
Arizona	2	1	5
Arizona St.	2	1	4
Utah	1	1	4
UCLA	1	2	4
Colorado	0	3	2

Game of the week: No. 23 Stanford at No. 17 Arizona State. The Cardinal (4-2, 2-1) will need to navigate a tough road stretch if they want to three-peat as Pac-12 champs. Four of the final six games for Stanford are away, starting with the rematch of last season's conference championship at Arizona State (4-1, 2-1). Three-year starting QB Taylor Kelly returned to practice last week for the first time since injuring his right foot on Sept. 13. But the senior has been limited in practice and it's still up in the air whether he'll be ready to play Saturday.

Inside the numbers: Through the first six weeks of the season, road teams are an is-that-right 14-4 in conference games.

Player to watch: Washington OLB Hau'oli Kikaha. He moved into the national lead in sacks (10) after collecting three against California last week. Kikaha faces daunting Oregon QB Marcus Mariota on Saturday.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force
vs. New Mexico
Last week: Lost at Utah State, 34-16
Next game: at Army, Nov. 1



Army
at Kent State
Last week: Lost 41-21 at home to Rice
Next game: vs. Air Force, Nov. 1



Navy
does not play
Last week: Beat VMI, 51-14
Next game: vs. San Jose State, Oct. 25

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday	
No. 20 Utah	at Oregon State
Saturday	
No. 2 Florida State	vs. No. 5 Notre Dame
No. 3 Mississippi	vs. Tennessee
No. 4 Baylor	at West Virginia
No. 7 Alabama	vs. No. 21 Texas A&M
No. 8 Michigan State	at Indiana
No. 9 Oregon	at Washington
No. 10 Georgia	at Arkansas
No. 11 Oklahoma	vs. No. 14 Kansas State
No. 12 TCU	vs. No. 15 Oklahoma State
No. 13 Ohio State	vs. Rutgers
No. 17 Arizona State	vs. No. 23 Stanford
No. 19 Nebraska	at Northwestern
No. 22 Southern Cal	vs. Colorado
No. 24 Clemson	at Boston College
No. 25 Marshall	at FIU

SEC			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
Georgia	3	1	5
Kentucky	2	1	5
Alabama	2	2	3
Missouri	1	1	4
South Carolina	3	2	3
Tennessee	0	2	3
Vanderbilt	0	4	2
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
Mississippi	3	0	6
Mississippi St.	3	0	6
Alabama	1	1	5
Auburn	2	1	5
Texas A&M	2	1	5
LSU	1	2	3
Arkansas	0	3	3

Game of the week: No. 21 Texas A&M at No. 7 Alabama. Both of these teams need a big victory if they want to stay in contention for the SEC Western Division. Texas A&M is trying to get its league-leading offense back to form after a 35-20 loss to Mississippi last weekend. Alabama edged Arkansas 14-13 last week, but hasn't looked like the program that has been a national championship contender for years.

Inside the numbers: Tennessee already has allowed 23 sacks, which equals the combined total of sacks the Volunteers gave up in the 2012 and 2013 seasons. The Vols have another tough test Saturday when they face No. 3 Mississippi's defense, which is giving up a league-low 11.8 points per game.

Player to watch: Georgia running back Nick Chubb. The freshman stepped in for suspended running back Todd Gurley and rushed for 143 yards on 38 carries last week in a 34-0 shut-out of Missouri.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Mike Groll/AP

Quarterback Jameis Winston, right, and Florida State are the Atlantic Coast Conference's lone hope to get into the inaugural college football playoff.

ACC pins its playoff hopes on Seminoles

By JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference has two schools in the state of Mississippi — and almost an entire division, in fact — stalking a berth in the new college football playoff. The Big Ten, often maligned, has Michigan State on a course for the national semifinals and a couple of other ranked, one-loss schools standing by if the Spartans falter. The Big 12 and Pac-12 each have a handful of teams in the polls, too.

The Atlantic Coast Conference has only Florida State.

The defending NCAA champions have cruised to a 6-0 record and a comfortable spot near the top of the Top 25. But as the second-ranked Seminoles (6-0) head into this weekend's game against No. 5 Notre Dame, they are carrying not only their own title hopes but those of their whole conference.

"You want the league to do good; you want the league to do good nationally, no doubt about it," said North Carolina coach Larry Fedora, who like many of his colleagues added that he was mostly worried about his own team, for now.

Fedora's Tar Heels lost 50-43 to the Fighting Irish last week and are now back in the conference getting ready for Georgia Tech, which was ranked 22nd before falling to Duke on Saturday and dropping out of the rankings. Clemson is now the only ACC team in the Top 25 other than Florida State — but with two losses already and a No. 24 ranking, probably too far to climb into playoff contention.

That means the Seminoles are the conference's best — and perhaps only — hope of getting an ACC team into a four-team playoff that will leave out at least one power conference champion. If the Seminoles lose this weekend to the last currently ranked team on their schedule, the ACC could lose out on a postseason berth, the \$6 million payday that goes along with it and

bear the stigma of being the worst of the Big Five leagues.

"It would be big if we get an ACC team into the playoff," said Boston College quarterback Tyler Murphy, who as a Florida transfer has more trouble than most rooting for the Seminoles. "And, as a competitor, you hope FSU will be undefeated when they come into our game."

Conferences have their rivalries, but most teams are able to put that behind them when it comes to nonconference games. So finding a favorite in this weekend's game between the Seminoles and Irish isn't too difficult for most ACC players and coaches.

But that only goes so far: "You don't want to root for your enemy, but the enemy of your enemy is your friend," BC lineman Bobby Vardaro said.

'You don't want to root for your enemy, but the enemy of your enemy is your friend.'

Bobby Vardaro
BC lineman

North Carolina quarterback Marquise Williams doesn't have any divided loyalties. The Tar Heels don't play the Seminoles this season, so he won't have to worry about trying to beat Jameis Winston, a friend he talks to frequently, or the damage that a Florida State loss could do to their conference.

"If they make it to the national championship, all ACC schools would pull for them," Williams said. "We don't want an SEC school because ACC schools don't get enough credit. That's how we feel. So if Florida State was to make it a national championship, I'm pretty sure we would root for them, because that's the ACC."

For sure, the other conferences have their own problems.

The Big Ten was largely written off after Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State all lost nonconference games on the same early season weekend. The SEC is thought to be so deep and so strong, with four schools in the West Division in the top 10, that its conference champion could wind up with two losses. The Pac-12 has no unbeaten teams remaining.

AP Sports Writers Aaron Beard, Hank Kurz, John Kekis and Charles Odum and AP College Football Writer Ralph Russo contributed to this story.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott talks about his team's progress this season while standing outside the Leo W. Seal Jr. Football Complex on the campus in Starkville, Miss., on Tuesday. As the team's national ranking has improved to No. 3, so have Prescott's odds in the race for the Heisman Trophy, bringing new national attention to the player.

Special: QB Prescott has Bulldogs atop national rankings for first time

FROM BACK PAGE

No. 1 Mississippi State (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) is off this weekend, but when the Bulldogs return to action in a road game against Kentucky on Oct. 25, all eyes will be on Dak. He's ready.

"For other people, things might have changed a little bit," Prescott said. "But for this team and me personally, nothing's changed. We've just got some momentum going and we're trying to ride it."

It's been a stunning rise for Prescott, who was relatively unknown coming out of Haughton High School in 2010. His recruitment consisted of mostly smaller schools before the Bulldogs offered him a scholarship early in his senior season.

Even Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen acknowledges Prescott's game was an acquired taste.

The first time he watched Prescott at a summer camp on campus, he saw a guy who had a decent arm and good speed and came up with a four-word scouting report.

"He was just OK," Mullen said with a grin.

But at a second camp, Mullen said Prescott's leadership ability became more apparent when he led his team on a few impressive drives against good competition.

Suddenly, Mullen was hooked.

Prescott's former high school coach Rodney Guin said Mullen had a good eye.

"Mississippi State saw the real him, not just athletically," Guin said. "They saw every bit of the leadership. Mullen and offensive line coach John Hevesy picked up on it when others didn't. They saw something in him."

Prescott's ever-present smile is a constant around the Mississippi State football facilities, but he also has a fierce competitive streak that teammates say is evident in everything from the football field to the weight room to video games. He played through a painful nerve injury during last year's Egg Bowl, leading the team to an overtime victory over Ole Miss, and even when he's delivering a harsh message in the huddle teammates know he has their back.

"Dak's awesome," Mississippi State offensive lineman Ben Beckwith said. "He's a great leader. He's always been like that. What you see on Saturday—that's him all the time. He leads all the time. He's a guy you want your son to be like."

Prescott's game and attitude have drawn compar-

isons to a pretty good quarterback Mullen coached in the past—2007 Heisman winner Tim Tebow.

NFL Media analyst Bucky Brooks says the Prescott/Tebow comparison does have some merit—including a cloudy future as far as pro potential.

"[Prescott is] probably more natural with his mechanics and stuff like that, but I don't think you would say he's an elite passer by any stretch," Brooks said. "I don't know if the way he plays is all the way conducive to the way the position is played at the pro level."

Prescott didn't immediately become a star at Mississippi State. He redshirted during the 2011 season and then played sparingly in 2012 in mostly short-yardage situations.

Last season starting quarterback Tyler Russell battled injury problems and Prescott was thrust into a much bigger role. He accounted for 2,769 total yards and 23 touchdowns, almost immediately igniting the Bulldogs' offense.

But just as Prescott's career was taking off, he received the toughest news of his life in early November: His mom had died after a yearlong battle with colon cancer. She was 52.

Prescott said she was "everything you would want in a mom."

"She was strict but loving," Prescott said. "She didn't know all that much about football when I was younger, but she learned and then after awhile me and my brothers used to joke and call her John Madden because after the game she'd just break me down."

Guin said in the emotional hours following Peggy Prescott's funeral, the two had a short talk.

"I just told him 'Your mom raised you the way she did for moments like this—to get through stuff like this,'" Guin said. "She raised those boys to be tough. To be strong young men."

Prescott agreed. He was back on the field a few days later against Texas A&M, accounting for 303 total yards and two touchdowns in a 51-41 loss to the Aggies.

Now he's led the Bulldogs to nine straight victories dating back to last season and Mississippi State has its No. 1 in the national rankings for the first time in program history.

Peggy Prescott saw it coming before anyone else.

"My mom would be very proud," Dak Prescott said. "But she wouldn't be surprised at all."

Persistence pays off for Ole Miss

No. 3 Rebels recruiting well under Freeze

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Hugh Freeze's rapid renovation of Mississippi football has been fueled by a persistent recruiting philosophy that is grounded in grass-roots relationships, a down-home personality and even a little bit of luck.

The formula has helped the coach transform the Rebels from Southern Conference cellar-dwellers to the No. 3 team in the country in just three short years.

It's not hard to find where things started to turn around—Freeze's star-studded 2013 class. The recruits looked good on paper and now they look even better on the field.

"There's no doubt that class was the big cornerstone," said Mike Farrell, the national recruiting director for Rivals.com. "It was the seventh-ranked class in the country according to our rankings, but several star players and even more than that, it sent a message that Ole Miss would be a force in recruiting."

The class included defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche, receiver Laquon Treadwell, left tackle Laremy Tunsil and safety Tony Connor, and all four sophomores are playing major roles in the team's success.

The Rebels (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) will be trying to win their eighth straight game, dating back to last season, when they host Tennessee (3-3, 0-2) on Saturday.

Not bad for the 45-year-old Freeze, who spent more than a decade as a high school coach in Memphis, Tenn., before being hired by coach Ed Orgeron to become part of his staff at Ole Miss



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Mississippi football coach Hugh Freeze's three-year tenure at Mississippi has proven at least one thing—recruiting matters.

in 2005.

Orgeron had arrived at Ole Miss with a reputation of being a brilliant recruiter during his years as an assistant at Southern California under Pete Carroll. He didn't have much on-field success with the Rebels—they were 10-25 during his tenure from 2005-07—but the program's recruiting noticeably improved.

Freeze took notes. He observed Orgeron's constant energy and meticulous planning and still uses the same approach nearly a decade later.

"If you're not recruiting every day you're getting behind," Freeze said. "You've got to win (Mississippi)—the key battles in this state. You won't win them all, but you've got to win your share. And then you just stick to the 12-month plan—never vary from it. It takes everyone in this building."

Freeze has always said that once he gets a recruit on campus, he feels like he has a good chance.

"It's because I believe in what we have here," Freeze said. "I believe in this place. I believe what it can do for a young man and I believe you go after the ones who are the right fit for your philosophy."



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Mississippi defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche pressures Boise State quarterback Grant Hendrick (9). The Rebels have built themselves into the No. 3 team in the country by bringing in better talent, starting with a sophomore class that includes Nkemdiche, Laquon Treadwell and Laremy Tunsil.

AUTO RACING



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr., front, leads Kevin Harvick during last week's Sprint Cup Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C. A broken shifter dropped Earnhardt to last in the Chase field.

Junior goes to Talladega with victory on his mind

By TOM GIBBONS
The Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. has no issues with NASCAR's championship format, even as he heads to Talladega Superspeedway on the brink of elimination.

A broken shifter at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Saturday night dropped Earnhardt to last in the 12-driver field, and he'll need a victory at Talladega to advance to the third round of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

He called NASCAR's new elimination format "dramatic" and said Tuesday during a test session at Phoenix International Raceway the system has "served us well."

Earnhardt, Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson and Brad Keselowski are all in danger of being eliminated from the Chase on Sunday. The three are ranked in the bottom of the standings, and NASCAR now cuts four from the field after every third race.

Earnhardt, Johnson and Keselowski combined to win 10 of the 26 regular-season races.

Earnhardt, who has three victories this season, is realistic about his chances. He fell into this hole when he had a tire problem while leading two weeks ago at Kansas, and then the mechanical failure at Charlotte made his situation even worse.

"The facts are the facts," he said. "We are going to Talladega to try to win. We'll see what hap-

'We are going to Talladega to try to win. We'll see what happens from there. We've had two pretty bad races, and we still have a chance to win it. We appreciate that.'

Dale Earnhardt Jr.
NASCAR driver currently in 12th place



pens from there. We've had two pretty bad races, and we still have a chance to win it. We appreciate that."

The new format has been credited by the drivers for raising the stakes in the Chase. A win in any round automatically advances a driver, and four drivers will go to the season finale eligible to win the championship. The highest finisher at Homestead-Miami Speedway will claim the Cup.

While a driver can save his season with a victory, one bad segment in the Chase can ruin the year.

"No one is safe," said Jeff Gordon, teammates with Earnhardt and Johnson. "Once that race is over, we are going to have a lot to talk about and some surprises that we couldn't have anticipated when the Chase began."

Heading into the playoffs, it looked as if it might be a show-

down between Team Penske and Hendrick Motorsports for the title. Now Joey Logano might be Penske's only representative in the third round, while Gordon and Kasey Kahne are currently poised to represent Hendrick, which had four cars in the Chase.

There's simply no room for error, Clint Bowyer said.

"One slip up and Dale Junior, he had a flat tire, and he's out of the playoffs," Bowyer said.

Regardless of what happens, Earnhardt believes the system has created intense competition that will be must-watch racing, even if he's eliminated.

"I think everyone who is a NASCAR fan will be watching that Homestead race just to see how this turns out," Earnhardt said. "I think my fans enjoy racing and will continue to watch. I don't think we drive the ratings that way."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Geico 500 at Talladega, Ala.

Track: Talladega Superspeedway (oval, 2.66 miles).

Race distance: 500.08 miles, 188 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time; 3 a.m. Monday, Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Jamie McMurray won under caution after Austin Dillon lost control on the final lap.

Last week: Kevin Harvick won at Charlotte to earn a spot in the third round of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Next race: Goody's Headache Relief Shot 500, Oct. 26, Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, Va.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

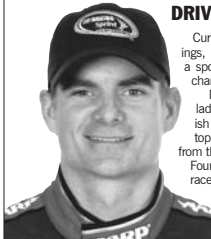
1. Joey Logano	3,088
2. Kyle Busch	3,082
3. Kevin Harvick	3,081
4. Ryan Newman	3,077
5. Carl Edwards	3,076
6. Jeff Gordon	3,074
7. Denny Hamlin	3,073
8. Kasey Kahne	3,057
9. Matt Kenseth	3,056
10. Brad Keselowski	3,038
11. Jimmie Johnson	3,031
12. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3,031
13. AJ Allmendinger	2,142
14. Greg Biffle	2,127
15. Kurt Busch	2,109
16. Aric Almirola	2,096
17. Kyle Larson	940
18. Jamie McMurray	867
19. Austin Dillon	847
20. Clint Bowyer	844

DRIVER TO WATCH

Currently sitting in sixth place in the standings, **Jeff Gordon** is in prime position to earn a spot in the next round of the Chase for the championship.

No active driver has won more times at Talladega than Gordon, who has crossed the finish line first on six occasions. He also has 15 top-five and 10 top-10 finishes. He's started from the pole three times.

Four drivers will be cut from the Chase after the race; the winner automatically advances, then the field will be reshuffled according to points and the bottom four will be eliminated.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

Next race: O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge, Nov. 1, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won at Charlotte for his fourth victory in nine starts this year and 31st overall series win.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

This week: Fred's 250 at Talladega, Ala.

Track: Talladega Superspeedway (oval, 2.66 miles).

Race distance: 250.04 miles, 94 laps.

Last year: Johnny Sauter completed a Daytona-Talladega sweep for the last of his three 2013 victories, escaping a huge crash on the final turn.

Last race: Erik Jones won at Las Vegas on Sept. 27 for his second victory of the year, holding off Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate Darrell Wallace Jr.

Fast facts: Jones is making his 10th start of the season in Busch's No. 51 Toyota.

Next race: Kroger 200, Oct. 25, Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, Va.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: U.S. Grand Prix, Nov. 2, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas.

Last week: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Russian Grand Prix for his fourth straight victory and ninth of the season. Teammate Nico Rosberg was second and Mercedes wrapped up its first constructors title. Hamilton has a 17-point lead over Rosberg with three races left.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: NHRA Toyota Nationals, Oct. 30-Nov. 2, The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas.

Last event: Matt Hagan won the NHRA Nationals in Mohnton, Pa., to take the Funny Car points lead. Hagan raced to his third victory of the season and second in the Countdown to the Championship playoffs. Tony Schumacher won in Top Fuel, Rodger Brogdon in Pro Stock, and Eddie Krawiec in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Saturday, Fremont Speedway, Fremont, Ohio. Super DirtCar: Saturday, Brockville Ontario Speedway, Brockville, Ontario.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

— The Associated Press



PAVEL GOLOVNIK/AP

Mercedes team driver **Lewis Hamilton** smiles after winning the Formula One Russian Grand Prix on Sunday.

SOCCER/MLB PLAYOFFS

MLS commissioner blasts Klinsmann for comments

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber took the extraordinary step Wednesday of criticizing U.S. men's national team coach Jurgen Klinsmann for not taking Landon Donovan to the World Cup and for saying Clint Dempsey and Michael Bradley damaged their careers by returning to MLS from European clubs.

Garber, the league's commissioner since 1999, questioned whether Klinsmann could be an effective coach while publicly criticizing MLS.

A U.S. Soccer Federation official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized, said later that Klinsmann was not in danger of losing his job.

The 32-year-old Donovan, the career scoring leader for the national team and MLS, was denied a trip to a fourth World Cup.

"I believe that Landon should have been in Brazil, not because he earned it or deserved it, but because his performance dictated it," Garber said during a conference call with reporters. "And if anybody disagrees with that, and I believe that you might — clearly Jurgen does — then I believe that his treatment was inequitable."

Klinsmann, a World Cup winner with West Germany in 1990 and coach of the German team that reached the 2006 semifinals, was hired by the U.S. Soccer Federation in July 2011 to replace Bob Bradley. Klinsmann coached the Americans to the title at the 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cup and the second round of this year's World Cup, where the U.S. lost 2-1 to Belgium in extra time.

USFF President Sunil Gulati announced in December that Klinsmann signed a contract extension through to the 2018 World Cup in Russia and was

given the added title of USSF technical director.

"For him to publicly state issues that he has with Major League Soccer in my view is not something that is going to allow him to effectively serve the role as not just coach but as technical director," Garber said. "I am in no way saying what Sunil should be doing with Jurgen as it relates with his employment. That is between Sunil and Jurgen. I think he's done a great job with the national team. I think he needs to think very, very hard about how he manages himself publicly and how he deals with his view as to how he should motivate players that are playing in our league."

Asked what should happen next, Garber said: "I want Jurgen to embrace the vision, and I believe we all need to sit down and talk about his alignment with that vision."

Klinsmann sparked the controversy Monday in Boca Raton, Fla., in his comments before a friendly against Honduras the following day. He said the national team was hurt by Dempsey's August 2013 decision to leave Tottenham and the choice of Michael Bradley — Bob's son — to leave Roma for Toronto this January.

"It's going to be very difficult for them to keep the same level that they experienced at the places where they were. It's just reality. It's just being honest," he said. "I totally get it. It's a huge financial opportunity... [but] making that step means you're not in the same competitive environment as you were before."

Garber, a member of the USSF board of directors, called the remarks "personally infuriating."

"Jurgen's comments are very, very detrimental to the league. They're detrimental to the sport of soccer in America and everything that we're trying to do north of the border. And they are very detrimental, I think that they are wrong," Garber said.

Wambach scores in qualifying win

By KELLY MCHUGH
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Abby Wambach scored in the 54th minute to help the United States beat Trinidad and Tobago 1-0 on Wednesday night in their opening Women's World Cup qualifying game.

Wambach scored on a header off Alex Morgan's cross for her record-extending 171st international goal. Hope Solo made one save to push her U.S. record for shutouts to 74.

"It was frustrating," Wambach said. "We created a lot of chances but their goalie basically stood on her head this game until the end. We just couldn't break them down. In this tournament, we knew that we were going to be up against teams bunkering back, and making things difficult for us in the 18, and we just weren't on our last bits. We were just a little bit off."

Trinidad goalkeeper Kimika Forbes made 11 saves and the United States had a 29-7 shots advantage.

"She was big time tonight," Trinidad coach Randy Waldryn said. "She was the player of the game for us. She kept it close and kept us in it. She's special. She was fantastic tonight."

The game was the United States' first competitive match since Jill Ellis took over as coach.



COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

Trinidad and Tobago's Rhea Belgrave keeps Abby Wambach from getting to the ball during Wednesday's match in Kansas City, Kan.

"I was happy, relieved, thankful that Abby put one away because, at the end of the day, with all those opportunities you need to put one in the net," Ellis said. "Credit to Trinidad. We don't see teams that often that sit as organized and put so many numbers behind the ball. I thought it was an excellent challenge for us. We created a lot of opportunities, but

defensively gave up some big mistakes. We should have done a better job finishing."

The United States and Trinidad and Tobago are in Group A along with Haiti and Guatemala. In the opener at Sporting Park, Haiti beat Guatemala 1-0.

On Friday, the United States will play Guatemala, and Haiti will face Trinidad and Tobago.

MLB scoreboard

League championship series

(Best-of-seven)
American League
Kansas City 4, Baltimore 0
Kansas City 8, Baltimore 6, 10 innings
Kansas City 6, Baltimore 4
Baltimore at Kansas City, ppd., rain
Kansas City 2, Baltimore 1
Wednesday: Kansas City 2, Baltimore 1

National League
San Francisco 3, St. Louis 1
San Francisco 3, St. Louis 4
San Francisco 5, San Francisco 4
San Francisco 5, St. Louis 4, 10 innings
San Francisco at San Francisco, 6, St. Louis 4
Saturday: St. Louis at San Francisco
Saturday: San Francisco at St. Louis
Sunday: San Francisco at St. Louis

World Series

(Best-of-seven)
Tuesday, Oct. 21: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City
Wednesday, Oct. 22: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City
Friday, Oct. 24: Kansas City at St. Louis-San Francisco winner
Saturday, Oct. 25: Kansas City at St. Louis-San Francisco winner
Sunday, Oct. 26: Kansas City at St. Louis-San Francisco winner
Tuesday, Oct. 28: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City
Wednesday, Oct. 29: St. Louis-San Francisco winner at Kansas City

Wednesday

ALCS

Royals 2, Orioles 1

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	Kansas City	ab	r	h	bi
Markis rf	4	0	0	0	Aceves ss	5	1	2	0
Pearce lb	4	0	0	0	Aoki rf	1	0	0	0
Ortiz 3b	4	0	0	0	Dyson cf	1	0	0	0
N.Cruz lf	3	0	0	0	Malin cf-rf	3	0	0	0
De Azza pr	0	0	0	0	Hosmer lf	3	0	1	0
Dwyer lf	4	0	0	0	Gore pr	0	0	0	0
Harjary ss	4	0	0	0	Agard lf	4	0	1	0
Killebrew 3b	3	0	0	0	Sperber c	4	0	0	0
Flaherty 3b-2b	1	1	1	0	Schoop 2b	2	0	0	0
Schoop 2b	2	0	0	0	Infante 2b	2	0	0	0
Killebrew 3b	1	0	0	0	Moskos 3b	4	0	1	0
Totals	29	1	4	1	Totals	28	2	5	1

Baltimore 200-000-1
Kansas City 000-000-2
E—C.Jones (1), pp—Baltmore 1, Kansas City 1, LOB—Baltimore 5, Kansas City 10, 2B—Butler (2), HR—Flaherty (1), S—L.Cain.

IP H R ER BB SO

Baltimore	M.Gonzalez L-1	5 1/2	4	2	1	4	4
O'Day	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Jiller	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Z.Britton	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Kansas City	J.Vargas W-1	5	2	1	1	3	6
K.Herrera H-2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
W.Davis H-2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
G.Holland L-4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HBP—by M.Gonzalez (Aoki, A.Gordon).							
WP—M.Gonzalez. T—2:56. A—40,468 (37,903).							

NLCS

Giants 6, Cardinals 4

St. Louis	ab	r	h	bi	San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi
McCrort 3b	4	1	0	0	GBanc cf	4	2	1	1
Jay cf	3	0	0	0	Panik 2b	5	0	1	1
Holliday lf	1	1	0	0	Posey c	3	1	2	3
Wong 3b	4	0	2	1	Sandoval 3b	4	0	1	0
Adams 2b	4	0	0	0	Pencer lf	2	0	0	0
Mads 2b	4	2	1	0	Belt 1b	4	0	1	0
Przyns c	2	0	0	0	Ishikawa lf	2	0	0	0
Gonzalez p	0	0	0	0	J.Perez ph-LF	3	1	2	0
Manness p	0	0	0	0	CBrewer ss	3	1	2	0
G.Holland L-4	1	0	0	0	Tolp 1b	0	0	0	0
Neshek p	0	0	0	0	Arias ph	1	1	1	0
Griff rf	4	0	0	0	YPetit p	1	0	0	0
Smith lf	2	0	0	0	MDuffy 1b	0	0	0	0
Choate c	0	0	0	0	Affeldt p	0	0	0	0
Chirba p	0	0	0	0	Mach p	0	0	0	0
T.Cruz c	1	0	0	0	J.Lopez c	0	0	0	0
Detals ph	1	0	0	0	Morse ph	1	0	0	0
Romo p	0	0	0	0	Scallip p	0	0	0	0
Totals	35	4	11	3	Totals	32	4	11	4

St. Louis 112-000-6
San Francisco 102-003-4

DP—St. Louis 2, San Francisco 1.
LOB—St. Louis 8, San Francisco 10, 2B—M.Carpenter (1), Holliday (1), Wong (2), GBanc (1), B.Crawford (1), HR—Wong (2), SB—Pencer (1), S—M.Duffy, SF—Posey.

IP H R ER BB SO

St. Louis	3 1/2	6	3	3	2	3
Choate	1 1/2	0	0	0	0	1
Smith	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gonzales LO-B5-1, S-1	1 1/2	1	3	1	0	1
Manness	1 1/2	4	0	0	0	1
Chirba	1	0	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	3 1/2	7	4	4	0	1
Volgelson	3	7	4	4	0	1
Schiff W-L-0	1 1/2	1	0	0	1	4
Affeldt H-1	1 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Schoop	1 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
J.Lopez H-1	1 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Romo H-2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Schoop	1 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Machi pitched 1 1/2 batter in the 7th.						
T—3:53. A—43,147 (41,915).						

Giants get past Cards

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Buster Posey and the Giants already knew how to win in October — even without all this help from the St. Louis Cardinals.

Strange as it might look sometimes, San Francisco finds a way to score just enough.

Posey drove in three runs and capped another unusual rally as the Giants took advantage of some clumsy defense by first baseman Matt Adams in beating the Cardinals 6-4 on Wednesday night to move within one victory of the World Series.

"We might find some weird ways to score runs, but we're getting points on base first. That's the main thing," Brandon Belt said.

Chasing their third title in five years, the Giants led the best-of-seven NL Championship Series 3-1 after poor throws cost the Cardinals yet again.

Kansas City awaits the winner after completing its ALCS sweep of Baltimore earlier in the day. The wild-card Royals will host Game 1 of the World Series on Tuesday night.

San Francisco climbed out of an early three-run hole, and back-to-back bad throws by Adams in the sixth inning kept the Giants rally — one night after "We lost by St. Louis reliever Randy Choate allowed the winning run to score in the 10th inning.

"I think any time you can put pressure on the defense, you've got the opportunity for good things to happen," Posey said. "We're able to come up with some big two-out RBIs to get back in the game."

Minus injured catcher Yadier Molina again, the Cardinals were facing to a 4-3 lead when San Francisco put runners at second and third in the sixth. Playing with one out, the lumbering Adams backed-handed Gregor Blanco's bouncer and stumbled as he tried to set himself to throw home.

Adams had trouble with the transfer, and his toss short-hopped catcher Tony Cruz as Juan Perez slid across with the tying run.

Joe Panik then hit a grounder right to Adams, who stepped on first base before firing wild to second in trying for a double play. Brandon Crawford stopped between third and home, yet was able to score easily when Adams threw wide of the bag.

"That's kind of fitting of how our postseason's been," Panik said. "It might not be the prettiest way of scoring runs."

Cardinals shortstop Johnny Peralta came way off the base to catch the ball, but had no play at the plate.

"The play at home, there's a fast runner on third and I was going in on the ball and threw on the run," Adams said. "Just should've made the throw, though. The second one, I should've just touched first and checked home."

The Giants have scored 12 of their 22 runs over their past six postseason games without the batter getting a hit.

MLB PLAYOFFS



Kansas City relief pitcher Greg Holland and catcher Salvador Perez celebrate Wednesday after the final out of Game 4 of the American League Championship Series in Kansas City, Mo. The Royals beat Baltimore 2-1 to close out the series and advance to the World Series.

29 years after their last trip, Royals return to World Series

BY DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — James Shields led thousands of fans in a celebratory chant. Lorenzo Cain pranced along the warning track, cradling his newborn son. Ned Yost finally allowed himself to smile.

After nearly three decades spent as one of the game's biggest laughingstocks, the Kansas City Royals are once again baseball royalty. They are headed to their first World Series since 1985, finishing a four-game sweep in the AL Championship Series with a 2-1 victory Wednesday over the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's hard to explain," said Cain, whose clutch hits and dramatic catches earned him the series MVP award. "We're clicking at the right moment right now." Now, the Royals will carry an 11-game playoff winning streak into the World Series, one shy of the major league record. That includes their first eight this season, something that had never been done in postseason history. Kansas City beat Oakland in a 12-inning wild-card thriller to start things off, then swept the Los

Royals' playoff history

World Series (Won 1, Lost 1)
1985 — Beat St. Louis Cardinals, 4-3
1990 — Lost to Philadelphia Phillies, 4-2
Record — Won 6, Lost 7
League Championship Series (Won 3, Lost 4)
2014 — Beat Baltimore Orioles, 4-0
1985 — Beat Toronto Blue Jays, 4-0
1984 — Lost to Detroit Tigers, 3-0
1980 — Beat New York Yankees, 3-0
1979 — Lost to New York Yankees, 3-1
1977 — Lost to New York Yankees, 3-2
1976 — Lost to New York Yankees, 3-2
Record — Won 16, Lost 15
Division Championship Series (Won 1, Lost 1)
2014 — Beat Los Angeles Angels, 3-0
1981 — Won 3, Lost 3
Record — Won 3, Lost 0
Wild Card (Won 1, Lost 0)
2014 — Beat Oakland Athletics, 9-8, 12 innings
 — The Associated Press

Angeles Angels in the Divisional Series.

Coincidentally, it was the Cardinals who the Royals beat for their only World Series title. After holding the Orioles to three hits in Game 3, Jason Var-

gas and the Royals bullpen held them to four hits Wednesday night. Kelvin Herrera and Wade Davis got the game to Greg Holland, who matched Dennis Eckersley's record with his fourth save of the best-of-seven series.

Making his first start in nearly two weeks, Vargas shut down the vaunted Orioles lineup in Game 4. The only damage he allowed came in the third inning, when Flaherty went deep.

By that point, the Royals had already manufactured a pair of runs.

Aldes Escobar singled off Orioles starter Miguel Gonzalez to open the game, and Nori Aoki was drilled on the right knee a couple pitches later. Yost then opted to bunt with Cain, one of his hottest hitters, to advance both of the runners.

Eric Hosmer followed with a chopping groundball, and first baseman Steve Pearce went home with it. Escobar slid safely and the ball bounced away from catcher Caleb Joseph, allowing Aoki to follow his teammate home and giving the scrappy, small-ball Royals a 2-0 lead.

After that, it was up to their defense and bullpen.

Great catch: Cain snags MVP award

BY DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Lorenzo Cain capped the AL Championship Series with his best catch yet: an MVP trophy.

The smooth center fielder snagged MVP honors after helping the Kansas City Royals to a four-game sweep of the Baltimore Orioles with a 2-1 victory Wednesday.

Along with making a series of splendid defensive plays, Cain batted .533 in the series and scored five runs. He had eight hits, matching the franchise record for an ALCS set by Willie Wilson — who also wore No. 6 and roamed center field — in 1985 against Toronto. "Unbelievable feeling," Cain said. "I've enjoyed every moment of it."

Indeed, what a month it's been for Cain, who went home to Oklahoma between playoff series to be with his wife, Jenny, for the birth of their first child, Cameron Loe. Cain rejoined the team in plenty of time to torment the Orioles all week, and held his newborn son, dressed warmly in a baseball-styled stocking cap, on the Kauffman Stadium warning track during the victory celebration that followed Game 4.

Cain matched a Royals record with four hits in Game 2 on Saturday, and scored their first run in Game 3 on Tuesday night. He also laid down a key sacrifice bunt — the first of his career — that helped Kansas City take a 2-0 lead in the first inning Wednesday.

He had two doubles, two walks and the team's only stolen base in the series. After hitting only five homers during the regular season, he slugged .667 with a .588 on-base percentage.

ALCS MVPs

2014 — Lorenzo Cain, Kansas City Royals
2013 — Koji Uehara, Boston Red Sox
2012 — Delmon Young, Detroit Tigers
2011 — Nelson Cruz, Texas Rangers
2010 — Josh Hamilton, Texas Rangers
2009 — CC Sabathia, New York Yankees
2008 — Matt Garza, Tampa Bay Rays
2007 — Josh Beckett, Boston Red Sox
2006 — Placido Polanco, Detroit Tigers
2005 — Paul Konerko, Chicago White Sox
2004 — David Ortiz, Boston Red Sox
2003 — Mariano Rivera, New York Yankees
2002 — Adam Kennedy, Anaheim Angels
2001 — Andy Pettitte, New York Yankees
2000 — David Justice, New York Yankees
1999 — Orlando Hernandez, New York Yankees
1998 — David Wells, New York Yankees
1997 — Marquis Grissom, Cleveland Indians
1996 — Bernie Williams, New York Yankees
1995 — Orel Herschiser, Cleveland Indians
1994 — strike
1993 — Dave Stewart, Toronto Blue Jays
1992 — Roberto Alomar, Toronto Blue Jays
1991 — Kirby Puckett, Minnesota Twins
1990 — Dave Stewart, Oakland Athletics
1989 — Rickey Henderson, Oakland Athletics
1988 — Dennis Eckersley, Oakland Athletics
1987 — Gary Gaetti, Minnesota Twins
1986 — Marty Barrett, Boston Red Sox
1985 — George Brett, Kansas City Royals
1984 — Kirk Gibson, Detroit Tigers
1983 — Mike Boddicker, Baltimore Orioles
1982 — Fred Lynn, California Angels
1981 — Graig Nettles, New York Yankees
1980 — Frank White, Kansas City Royals
 — The Associated Press



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Kansas City's Lorenzo Cain holds up the MVP trophy Wednesday after the Royals completed a four-game sweep of Baltimore to win the American League Championship Series.

NFL

Ebola facts distributed to all teams

By TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The NFL has sent a newsletter outlining the basic facts about the Ebola virus to all team doctors and trainers for distribution to players and staff.

The league said Wednesday the newsletter was written by the Duke Infection Control Outreach Network, the league's infectious disease consultants, and sent to the league's 32 teams on Monday.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday in an email the newsletter was informational.

The two doctors who signed the newsletter advised teams that they did not need to screen players or staff to make sure they have not had close contact with anyone who

traveled to or from areas where Ebola is now endemic.

"We do recommend that medical personnel educate their players and staff about the need to inform club medical personnel in the unlikely event that they actually have such contact," the doctors wrote.

The doctors wrote that the public and medical community have been bombarded with news stories about the emergence

of Ebola virus disease in West Africa and its subsequent importation into the United States. The stories emphasized the high mortality of the disease in several African countries; that health care workers have died in those areas caring for infected patients; and that the virus has been transferred to medical personnel in Dallas by a man from Liberia being treated at their hospital. That man died on Oct. 8.

"Our goal in writing this newsletter is to provide basic facts and answers to common questions that may arise in players, their families, or your staff — particularly if imported cases of Ebola have occurred in your local community," Drs. Daniel J. Sexton and Deverick L. Anderson wrote in the newsletter they signed.

Fears of the Ebola virus deepened Wednesday with word a second Dallas nurse caught the disease from a patient.

The New York Giants provided the information to their players and staff electronically on Wednesday morning, team spokesman Pat Hanlon said.

The Giants (3-3) play the Cowboys (5-1) in Dallas on Sunday.

"Our athletic trainers and team physicians have been briefed on the scope of the Ebola virus disease," Hanlon said in an email.

Giants quarterback Eli Manning was not concerned heading to Dallas.

"I don't want about myself or the team," Manning said. "I think what we're doing, where we're staying, I think we'll be OK."

Dallas coach Jason Garrett seemed caught off-guard when asked if he had to address his team about Ebola.

"Really haven't, to be honest with you," Garrett said. "I don't about this directly affected us. So it hasn't been something we have addressed directly with our players."

'Our athletic trainers and team physicians have been briefed on the scope of the Ebola virus disease.'

Pat Hanlon
Giants spokesman



GUS RUELAS/AP

Offensive tackle Tyrone Smith, left, center Travis Frederick, center, and guard Zack Martin are 23-year-old, first-round draft picks anchoring the Dallas offensive line for league rushing leader DeMarco Murray.

No name over nickname

Cowboys' young offensive linemen would prefer to remain anonymous

By SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Tyrone Smith, Travis Frederick and Zack Martin are 23-year-old first-round draft picks anchoring the Dallas offensive line for NFL rushing leader DeMarco Murray.

That has to mean there's a nickname coming, right?

"I hope not," says Frederick. "I hate nicknames."

And there's the essence of a young group that could form the core of the Cowboys' offense for years. The closest thing to Hollywood in this bunch is that Smith looks the part of a comic book hero at 6-foot-5, 320 pounds and he grew up in the Los Angeles area.

Otherwise, these are men of few words — unless you get Frederick talking about math or engineering — who live by the mantra that you're doing your job when nobody says your name.

"They are old-school offensive linemen," coach Jason Garrett said. "They don't say a whole lot. They go out and do their job. They do it the right way."

Smith was Garrett's first draft pick as coach in 2011, a 20-year-old from Southern California at No. 9 overall. The Cowboys gave him a year at right tackle but believed all along he was the future at the marquee spot, left tackle, and just proved it by lock-

ing him up with the franchise's second \$100 million contract after Tony Romo.

Frederick, the center, followed two years later near the end of the first round when the Cowboys traded down. Martin was the last of the three first-round picks this year after Dallas decided to keep the selection as everyone wondered whether owner Jerry Jones would grab the free-falling Johnny Manziel.

All three have started from the moment they walked into team headquarters, with the assumption always being the Cowboys were trying to make life easier on Romo. Jones said following the Frederick pick that the team was trying to buy their offense back up quarterback an "extra half a second."

Turns out Murray is reaping the most benefits, with a chance Sunday against the New York Giants (3-3) to become the first back with seven straight 100-yard games to start the season and a nearly 250-yard lead in the rushing race with 785 yards. He also leads all running backs with six touchdowns, a big reason for Dallas' 5-1 start.

"Those are good guys," said Murray, who says he takes care of his linemen but hasn't added the downfield-blocking receivers and tight ends to his payroll yet.

"If I was making Romo's money I would," Murray said. "But I'm concentrating on the five guys right now. I appreciate the other guys, but I'm concentrating on the big fel-



TIM SHARP/AP

Dallas running back DeMarco Murray, center, leads the league in rushing with Zack Martin, left, and Doug Free opening some of the holes that have allowed him to gain 785 yards so far.

las right now."

He hangs out with them — a bit. "I wouldn't say all the time because fat guys like to hang out with other fat guys," Frederick said. "Skinny guys don't like hanging out with us too much. We eat too much. But he does a good job of making a point of being friendly and hanging out with us and making sure we know he cares."



GAMEDAY

WEEK 7

TELEVIEWED GAMES



Carolina Panthers (3-2-1)
at **Green Bay Packers (4-2)**

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Packers lead 7-4.

Last meeting: Aaron Rodgers threw for 308 yards and 2 TDs as the Packers won 30-23 at Carolina on Sept. 18, 2011.

Notes: In his only meeting with Green Bay, Panthers QB Cam Newton passed for 432 yards with a passing and rushing TD ... Rodgers, who leads the NFC with a 111.4 rating, is the only player in NFL history with 15 TDs and 1 or 0 INTs in the first six games.



Kansas City Chiefs (2-3)
at **San Diego Chargers (5-1)**

AFN-Sports
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Chargers lead 54-52-1 and have won the past four.

Last meeting: Chargers won 27-24 on Dec. 29, 2013.

Notes: In his past six vs. the Chargers, Chiefs RB Jamaal Charles has 6 TDs (5 rushing, 1 receiving). ... In the past five games, Chargers QB Philip Rivers has completed 117 of 163 passes for 1,518 yards with 14 TDs and 1 INT.

Marquee matchup

New Orleans Saints (2-3) at Detroit Lions (4-2)

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday Japan & Korea

SERIES RECORD: Saints lead 11-9-1 and have won the past three.

LAST MEETING: Saints beat the Lions 45-28 on Jan. 7, 2012, in an NFC wild-card game at New Orleans.

SAINTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (2), RUSH (8), PASS (2).
SAINTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (23), RUSH (16), PASS (25).

LIONS OFFENSE: OVERALL (23), RUSH (29), PASS (14).

LIONS DEFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (2) PASS (1).
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Saints QB Drew Brees is 4-0 vs. Detroit (including playoffs), completing 115 of 153 (75.2 percent) for 1,517 yards with 14 TDs and 1 INT for a 133.8 rating. In the Sept. 13, 2009 meeting, Brees passed for 358 yards and 6 TDs.

Since joining New Orleans in 2006, he leads the NFL with 40,307 passing yards and 292 TD passes. ... Since 2011, Jimmy Graham leads NFL TE's with 304 catches, 3,883 yards and 39 TDs. ... WR Brandon Cooks leads NFL rookies with 32 catches. ... DE Cameron Jordan has 13 1/2 sacks in his past 20 games. ... Lions QB Matthew Stafford has 788 passing yards in the past two meetings with the Saints. Since 2011, he ranks second in the NFL with 16,247 passing yards. ... RB Reggie Bush was the No. 2 overall pick by New Orleans in 2006. He played there for five seasons and had 33 TDs (17 rushing, 12 receiving, 4 punt return). RBs Joique Bell (rushing) and Theo Riddick (receiving) each had a TD last week ... In the 2012 wild-card game, WR Calvin Johnson had 12 catches for 211 yards and 2 TDs. In the past 16 games at home he has 109 catches for 1,926 yards and 10 TDs. ... WR Golden Tate leads the team in receptions (38) and receiving yards (495).

Notes: Saints QB Eli Manning has started 157 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the NFL ... RB Andre Williams leads NFC rookies with 228 rushing yards ... The Cowboys are 5-1 for the first time since 2007 ... RB DeMarco Murray leads the league with 785 rushing yards and 6 TDs.



Lions QB Matthew Stafford has averaged 394 passing yards in his past two games against the Saints.

ANN HEISENFELT/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com



New York Giants (3-3)
at **Dallas Cowboys (5-1)**

AFN-Atlantic
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Cowboys lead 59-42-2 and have won three of the past four.
Last meeting: Cowboys won 24-21 on Nov. 24, 2013.

Notes: Giants QB Eli Manning has started 157 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the NFL ... RB Andre Williams leads NFC rookies with 228 rushing yards ... The Cowboys are 5-1 for the first time since 2007 ... RB DeMarco Murray leads the league with 785 rushing yards and 6 TDs.



San Francisco 49ers (4-2)
at **Denver Broncos (4-1)**

2:20 a.m. Monday CET
9:20 a.m. Monday JKT

On AFN-Xtra if NLCS Game 7 is necessary; AFN-Sports if Game 7 is not necessary
Series: Tied 6-6; 49ers have won the past two.

Last meeting: 49ers won 24-16 on Oct. 31, 2010, in London.

Notes: 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick has won six of seven starts vs. AFC teams ... Broncos QB Peyton Manning needs three TD passes to surpass Brett Favre (508) for the most in NFL history.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Atlanta at Baltimore
Tennessee at Washington
Seattle at St. Louis
Cleveland at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
Minnesota at Buffalo
Miami at Chicago
Open: Philadelphia, Tampa Bay
Monday
Houston at Pittsburgh

Thursday, Oct. 23
San Diego at Denver
Detroit vs. Atlanta at London
St. Louis at Kansas City
Houston at Tennessee
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Carolina
Baltimore at Cincinnati
Miami at Jacksonville
Cleveland at New England
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Philadelphia at Arizona
Oakland at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at New Orleans
Cincinnati at San Francisco
Monday, Oct. 27
Washington at Dallas

Also on AFN:

Arizona Cardinals (4-1) at Oakland Raiders (0-5), AFN-Xtra, (joined in progress) midnight Sunday CET, 7 a.m. Monday, JKT.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	4	2	0	.667	160	129	2-0-0	2-2-0	
Buffalo	3	3	0	.500	118	126	1-2-0	2-1-0	
Miami	2	3	0	.400	120	124	1-2-0	1-1-0	
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0	.167	96	158	1-3-0	0-2-0	
Indianapolis	4	2	0	.667	189	136	2-1-0	2-1-0	
Houston	3	3	0	.500	132	120	2-1-0	2-2-0	
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	104	153	1-2-0	1-2-0	
Jacksonville	0	6	0	.000	81	185	0-2-0	0-4-0	
Cincinnati	3	1	1	.700	134	113	2-0-1	1-1-0	
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	164	97	2-1-0	2-1-0	
Cleveland	3	2	0	.600	134	115	2-1-0	1-1-0	
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	124	139	1-1-0	2-2-0	
San Diego	5	1	0	.833	164	91	3-0-0	2-1-0	
Denver	4	1	0	.800	147	104	3-0-0	1-1-0	
Kansas City	2	3	0	.400	119	101	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Oakland	0	5	0	.000	79	134	0-3-0	0-2-0	

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	NFC	AFC	Div
Philadelphia	5	1	0	.833	183	132	4-0-0	1-1-0	
Dallas	5	1	0	.833	165	126	2-1-0	3-0-0	
N.Y. Giants	3	3	0	.500	133	138	2-1-0	1-2-0	
Washington	1	5	0	.167	132	166	1-2-0	0-3-0	
Carolina	2	3	1	.583	141	157	2-1-0	1-1-0	
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	132	141	2-0-0	0-3-0	
Atlanta	2	4	0	.333	164	170	2-1-0	0-3-0	
Tampa Bay	1	5	0	.167	120	204	0-3-0	1-2-0	
Detroit	4	2	0	.667	116	82	2-1-0	2-1-0	
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	161	130	2-0-0	2-2-0	
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	143	144	0-2-0	3-1-0	
Minnesota	2	4	0	.333	104	143	1-2-0	1-2-0	
Arizona	4	1	0	.800	116	106	3-0-0	1-1-0	
San Francisco	4	2	0	.667	141	123	2-1-0	2-1-0	
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	133	113	2-1-0	1-1-0	
St. Louis	1	4	0	.200	101	150	0-3-0	1-1-0	

NEXT WEEK

SPORTS



Broom town

Royals sweep Orioles 4-0 in ALCS
to earn spot in World Series | Page 61

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Dak Attack

MSU has something special at QB in Prescott

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

A STARKVILLE, Miss. smile slowly crept across Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott's face as he remembered the way his mother would introduce her three sons around town during their childhood in Haughton, La.

First, she would gush for a minute about her two oldest, Tad and Jace. Then she would turn to Dak.

‘People are always going to talk ... we’re just trying to give them something good to talk about.’

Dak Prescott
Mississippi State junior QB

top-10 opponents. The 6-foot-2, 230-pound junior said it's impossible to dodge the hype that has surrounded Mississippi State's rapid rise to the top of the college football world. But the quarterback insists all the attention is easy to deflect.

"I read [the stories] like it's not even really my name," Prescott said. "I just continue to focus. People are always going to talk — good or bad — so we're just trying to give them something good to talk about."

SEE SPECIAL ON PAGE 58

"And this," she would say proudly, "is my Heisman Trophy winner."

Turns out the late Peggy Prescott might have been onto something.

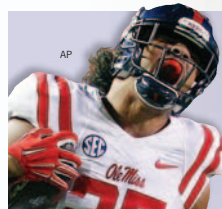
Dak Prescott is suddenly right in the middle of the Heisman race after winning three straight games against

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott has led his team to its first-ever national No. 1 ranking with three consecutive wins over top-10 opponents, and thrust himself into the middle of this season's Heisman Trophy conversation.

JIM LYTLE/AP

Inside:

■ Behind stellar 2013 recruiting class, head coach Freeze has taken Ole Miss from SEC cellar to No. 3 in the nation, Page 58



Cowboys' O-line content to remain anonymous
NFL, Page 62

MLS commissioner takes issue with Klinsmann
Soccer, Page 60